SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 SERVING NILES, BUCHANAN AND EDWARDSBURG

Niles Daily Star

leaderpub.com • $1.00 Established 1886

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
919 Port Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221
www.bcsheriff.org

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

OutCenter celebrates LGBTQ+ allies

City Councilperson Jessica Nelson

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — OutCenter Southwest Michigan is proud to celebrate two local leaders and one organization at this year's PrideFest events in Dowagiac, Niles, and Saint Joseph.

This is the inaugural year for annual awards that aims to celebrate a commitment to equality, authenticity, and the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights and shines a spotlight on contributions to inclusion and acceptance for all in Southwest Michigan.

The PrideFest Awardees for 2025 are:

• **Mayor Don Lyons (he/him), Dowagiac:** City mayor, LGBTQ+ ally and proud father of a lesbian daughter. Lyons Lyons has been mayor of Dowagiac for more than 25 years. In that time, he has worked hard to make Dowagiac a welcoming and inclusive community. From fostering relationships with underserved communities, to encouraging and supporting events like PrideFest and the Black Family Celebration, Lyons has made sure marginalized communities have felt safe to speak up and make their voices heard in the Dowagiac community.

"I was determined that [Dowagiac] was going to be a welcoming community," Lyons said. "It was going to be one that this creative class of people would want to come to, would want to invest in, would want to be part of.... This was clearly a choice that was being made between trying to hold on to the past... and embracing the future: embracing the future of creativity, of inclusivity, and variety in all of its many forms."

• City Councilperson Jessica Nelson (they/them), Niles: LGBTQ+ community member and a lifelong Niles resident by choice, Jessica has been involved in building and strengthening the Niles

See CELEBRATES, Page A6

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER HEADLINES NILES CHAMBER LUNCHEON

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce recognized local leaders who have helped the city and its businesses to flourish during its annual Chamber Pulse Luncheon Thursday, June 5 at The Morris Estate.

Presented by the Niles-Buchanan YMCA, the annual luncheon is considered to be the biggest networking event in the Niles region. The luncheon was headlined by Michigan Governer Gretchen Whitmer. Governor Whitmer, a leading voice in economic development, infrastructure investment, and workforce innovation, was asked a variety of questions ranging from economic growth across Michigan, her experience as a politician and her hopes for the future.

"My job – and I'm very clear on it – is to do everything I can to strengthen our economy and to strengthen the quality of life for Michiganders," she said. "I'm mindful that none of us has unlimited time, but I want to make sure we get as much done as we can so, whoever comes after me can take it to the next level."

Whitmer was asked about the automobile industry and the state's investment into electric vehicles.

"It's about setting the table so that consumers can benefit and that we can make our choice and

See WHITMER, Page A6

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Jeff Rea interviews Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer during the annual Chamber Pulse Luncheon Thursday at The Morris Estate.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Don Ryman was recognized on June 13, 2024 with an honorary resolution from the Berrien County Board of Commissioners. The resolution was presented by County Board Chairman McKinley "Mac" Elliott (right) who succeeded Ryman on the county board.

Buchanan commissioners remember Don Ryman

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Buchanan City Commissioners and residents paid tribute Monday to resident Don Ryman who died over the weekend. Ryman, a retired attorney for Clark Equipment Company, had been involved in city and county politics for decades.

Ryman, 97, had lived in Buchanan since the 1950s when he began working for Clark as a staff attorney. He was a member of the Buchanan Planning Commission from 1961 to 1984, the Buchanan History Commission in the 1980s and most recently the Buchanan Preservation Society.

At the county level, Ryman was a member of the Berrien County Planning Commission from 1967 to 1975 and was a Berrien County Commissioner for 16 years from 1995 to 2010.

Ryman was recognized just a year ago on June 13, 2024 with an honorary resolution from the Berrien County Board of Commissioners. The resolution was presented by County Board Chairman McKinley "Mac" Elliott who succeeded Ryman on the county board.

"Whereas, Don Ryman's leadership, wisdom, experience, and commitment to the citizens of Berrien is to be recognized," the resolution stated. "Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledges and thanks Donald Ryman for his many years of dedicated service to Berrien County."

Local business owner Randy Hendrixson was the first to mention Ryman. "I wanted to let people know we lost a person important to the city over the weekend," Hendrixson said. "I urge the city to do something in recognition of Don Ryman's passing."

Commissioner Dan Vigansky said everybody in town has memories of Ryman. He recalled Ryman's regular attendance at city commission meetings up until a year or two ago. "He will be missed, he will be missed," he said.

"I remember people thought he was always sleeping during meetings but he wasn't," Vigansky said. "The previous mayor made a comment one time about how difficult it was to turn an aircraft carrier and Don came wide awake and said why is everyone always saying it's so hard to turn an aircraft carrier. He said 'all you have to do is bark the order and they turn the aircraft carrier around'."

Commissioner Raquell George also gave her condolences.

See RYMAN, Page A6

Niles man gets prison time for Speedway shooting

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man who shot at a former co-worker at the Niles Speedway gas station last year was sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Alonzo Dominic Davis, 40, of Niles, was found guilty of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person and using a firearm in the commission of a felony after a March jury trial. He was found not guilty of assault with intent to murder and unarmed robbery.

Davis

Monday, Davis was sentenced to 30 months to 90 months in prison and $258 in fines and costs on the

See PRISON, Page A6

6 54708 09550 1

OBITUARIES

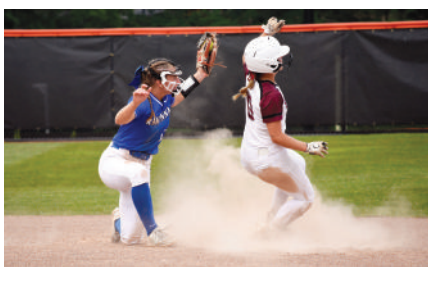
Larry DuBois
Brenda Vine
Teresa Barnes
Richard Olsen
Carl Beck
Barbara Williams
Max Campbell
Barbara "Jean" (Merrill) Schultz
George Edward "Ed" Smith
Eleanor Lambrecht
Marjorie Bowles
Norlan E. Wolf
Joann Hall
Donald F. Ryman

A7

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Frankly has a nasty bite to it. I think he or she needs to chill out a bit. Things could always be worse." A2



Buchanan softball falls to Ravenna in state quarterfinals B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Chaos, chaos, chaos..... turning the world upside down one day at a time. No one signed up for this nonsense being created by DT.

One in five US citizens receive Medicaid benefits. There was a campaign promise not to touch this... however, let's make sure there are tax incentives for millionaires and billionaires.

Health care in the US is not FREE. If you are able bodied, find a job and work. We are not heartless people...for those who are sick or disabled, help is there. For those who just sit at home, time to get off the couch.

I'm sick of the Trump bashing. Finally, the border is being secured. Biden did nothing to address this.

The deportations cannot happen without due process. Read the constitution. Why are so many of Trump's executive orders being shot down? Because they are illegal. We are a nation of laws.

Can someone tell me what the prize is for Russia if Ukraine is completely destroyed? Is there going to be anything left of this country? How can one person create such devastation for millions of people?

Why pardon corporate thieves you ask? Because they are fine people making fine contributions to a fine political party.

Get out and enjoy the beauty of our downtowns, our festivals, our local businesses, our coffee shops. We have so many wonderful places and things to see in our little corner of Michigan.

Frankly has a nasty bite to it. I think he or she needs to chill out a bit. Things could always be worse.

Donald Trump loves to refer to migrants as criminals, drug dealers & murders. Take a look at the latest group of people he just pardoned. They are literally, criminals, drug dealers & murders. I guess this is what he means by preferring American made!

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
60% Chance of Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	40% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	40% Chance of Rain
77° 64°	83° 66°	84° 67°	87° 71°	85° 71°	84° 70°

DOWNTOWN MURAL
PROJECT UNVEILED IN BUCHANAN

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — A vibrant mural project located in the heart of downtown Buchanan was unveiled on Saturday morning, shining a light on the area's rich Indigenous history.

LiveBuchanan, in collaboration with the Buchanan District Library, unveiled a new public mural by artist Justin Johnson Saturday, June 7. The unveiling featured drumming by Pokagon Band Youth Council Chairman Gabriel Loonsfoot.

The mural project is a celebration of both artistic expression and cultural heritage. Created by Johnson, a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and lifelong visual artist, the piece draws from the Woodland or "Legend Painting" style—a powerful visual tradition of the First Nations and Great Lakes Anishinaabe people. Johnson's work reflects themes of balance, respect, and the spiritual ties between people, animals, land, and spirit.

"Nature is a constant source of inspiration for me—its rhythms, colors and spirit are ever-present in my art," Johnson shared in his artist statement. "Through this visual language, I seek to honor ancestral traditions while offering a contemporary reflection on balance, harmony, and the unseen energies that connect us all."

The mural marks Johnson's first public mural installation and is located on the exterior of the Buchanan District Library. Organizers from LiveBuchanan and the Library emphasized the importance of

See MURAL, Page A3

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
LiveBuchanan, in collaboration with the Buchanan District Library, unveiled a new public mural by artist Justin Johnson last week. The unveiling featured drumming by Pokagon Band Youth Council Chairman Gabriel Loonsfoot.

Did You Know...
Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner's insurance?
Call today to find out more!
(269) 683-4900
Business • Home
Auto • Life • Farm
IMS Insurance Management Service
Auto-Owners Insurance Life • Home • Car • Business
214 N. 4th St., Niles
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
(269) 683-4900

THE CHIEFTAIN HEART
HELPFUL
ENGAGED
ACHIEVEMENT
RESPONSIBILITY
TEAMWORK
DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS
BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
(269) 782-4400
DOWAGIACSCHOOLS.ORG

Looking for a new pharmacy?
We make transfers easy!
MAKE CASS FAMILY CLINIC
YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME
CASS FAMILY CLINIC
(269) 445-3874 Cassopolis
(269) 262-4749 Niles
Cassopolis Niles
Our Family, Caring For Yours.
www.cassfamilyclinic.org
Visit our website and social media for updates and more information about our services.
Cass Family Clinic is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Suspect accused of killing Niles man found incompetent to stand trial

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — The trial for a man charged in connection with a 2023 homicide in the city has once again been delayed after he was found incompetent to stand trial.

Jamie Phillip Perry, 30, of St. Louis, Missouri, is facing open murder and three other felony charges for the Sept. 30, 2023 death of Niles resident Luke James Botica at Botica's home on the north side of Niles.

Perry had been bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing that spanned four days in October, November and December of 2023. A forensic examination was ordered in the case in January, 2024 to determine if he was competent to stand trial on the charges.

Perry was found incompetent to stand trial last August and had received treatment to become competent. He was found competent to stand trial in March but has since been found incompetent again.

Perry

Monday, a competency hearing was held before Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein. Attorneys in the case reported that while Perry is not competent to stand trial now, the forensics center staff believe he can once again regain competency.

Perry will now be resent to the forensics center to get treatment and therapy. Judge Hosbein set a new competency review date for Sept. 8 at 8:30 a.m. at the Niles courthouse.

The four charges Perry is facing are open murder, being a felon in possession of a firearm and two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The shooting took place at Botica's home in the 1200 block of North 12th Street in Niles on Sept. 30, 2023.

A preliminary hearing held in 2023 included testimony from two witnesses. One witness was at the home at the time of the shooting and said that the dispute between Perry and Botica was over drugs and money. The witness said that Botica told him that Perry owed him money and was going to help Botica start a marijuana grow operation.

The preliminary hearing featured Perry firing his first attorney, attempting to represent himself and then agreeing to be represented by another public defender.

Brandywine board members get first look at the district's new budget

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Brandywine Board of Education members got a first look at the district's 2025-26 budget at their meeting Monday night. Board members will vote on the new budget at their June 23 meeting ahead of the new fiscal year which begins July 1.

Assistant Superintendent Ray Wilburn presented information about the new budget as well as the third and final budget amendment of the current 2024-25 year. The board last amended this year's budget in March and will approve this final budget amendment as well as the new budget at the June 23 meeting.

Wilburn first talked about this year's final budget amendment before going on to talk about the proposed new budget.

He noted that this final budget amendment offers a more complete view of the district's finances as more information is available about revenue sources and employee expenses.

He said this final general fund budget amendment has revenue set at $18.711 million and expenditures at $18.54 million for a surplus of $171,000. Both revenue and expenditures rose from the second amendment approved in March where a deficit of $197,000 was projected.

He told board members that if numbers stay the same in the last two weeks of the fiscal year, the fund balance will be $4.2 million at the end of June which represents 22.67 percent of general fund expenditures. That fund balance level would allow the district to operate two and a half months without any revenue coming in.

Welburn noted that the board has set a goal of the district having a fund balance of at least 15 percent of expenditures. He said the district administration strives to have that percentage level at 20 percent or more.

With the new budget, he said made a couple of assumptions on the revenue side. He said he is budgeting for no increase in the state per pupil foundation allowance and a drop in other state funding. "We're planning for a five percent drop in state fund," he said. "There's no guarantee of anything. We're being negative but not doomsday."

Superintendent Travis Walker told board members that there's been no consensus in Lansing on what state aid will look like in the new state budget. He noted that last year there was talk of per pupil increases of as much as $320 and districts ended up seeing no increase.

Walker said the talk this year is that the legislature will increase the per pupil state

See BUDGET, Page A4

Get Fit, Stay Fit

The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.

• Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge
• H.I.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga

Cass County COA
Enhancing Life

(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org
facebook.com/CassCOA

Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

J&H OIL CO.

Choose The Leader In:
• Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
• Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
• Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
• Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
• Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso

Contract/Fixed Price Options
• Volume Discounts
• Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
• Premium Diesel Fuel
• Hoses & Filters in stock

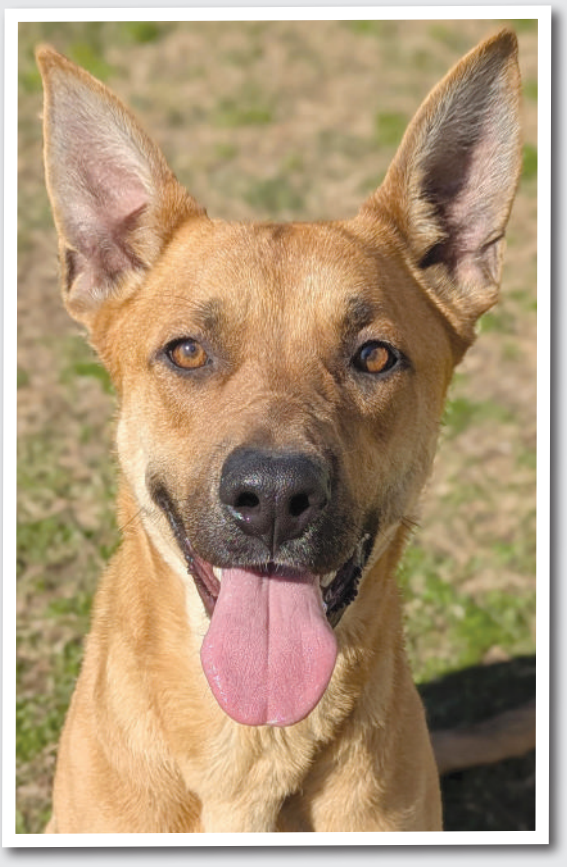
QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS
J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes

PACIFIC PRIDE · air1 · Phillips 66 Lubricants · Mobil · Marathon · Citgo

J&H OIL CO.

Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

PET OF THE WEEK



Bramble is a five-year-old dog with Berrien County Animal Services. She is described by volunteers as a vibrant, energetic bundle of joy who absolutely loves to run, play and stretch her legs. This beautiful companion and fun-loving girl will add love to your life. Bramble is spayed, current on shots, chipped and prefers a home without cats or dogs. Contact Berrien County Animal Services at (269) 927-5648.

MURAL

Continued from page A2

partnering with a Native artist to remind viewers of the deep cultural and spiritual significance of McCoy Creek, which runs along Days Avenue and directly beneath the mural wall. For generations, the creek and surrounding natural elements have held sacred meaning for Native peoples, and this artwork serves to honor and preserve that connection.

The event included remarks from Johnson, musical drumming by Gabriel Loonsfoot and an opportunity to meet Johnson and celebrate Buchanan's growing public art scene.

The mural is part of "Art on Days," which brings a new mural to downtown Buchanan's Days Avenue each year. This ongoing public art initiative is designed to celebrate local creativity, enrich public spaces, and engage the community through accessible and meaningful art experiences in Buchanan. Community members who wish to support this growing public art initiative can make a donation at Buchanan District Library : Art on Days https://www.buchananlibrary.org/support-us/art_on_days.

The mural project was made possible with support from Sarah Butus, Janet Kuhn, City of Buchanan, Honor Credit Union, Buchanan Masons Lodge No. 68, Lifted Craft Cannabis Market, McCarty Well Drilling, River of Life Yoga, and Sturgis Bank.

JIM D'S Bodin Shop
M-51 SOUTH, DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
269-782-2728
"Collision Repairs Are Our Business"
Body and Frame Repair
Insurance Work Welcome

Honor CREDIT UNION

5.15% APY* Benefits Checking

A free checking account that pays you.

David Anderson
Honor Credit Union Member
Allendale, MI

Get Started
HonorCU.com/Bonus

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates accurate as of 11/1/24, $25 minimum deposit required to open. Earn the 5.15% APY on balances of up to $10,000.00. Members not meeting the Dividend Requirements will not earn dividends. Dividend Requirements are e-Statements, Direct Deposit, at least 20 debit card transactions per month that clear your account as signature-based or PIN-based point of sale (POS) debit transactions (PIN-based ATM transactions not eligible; please note that Honor posts transactions based on how they are received from merchants) and minimum 1 monthly online banking login. ^ATM foreign surcharge fees will be refunded monthly up to $20/month. Members not meeting requirements will not earn ATM foreign surcharge fee refunds. No free checks offered on this account. One account per Member. Rate is variable and may change after account is opened. Insured by NCUA.

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Think Carefully about Medicaid: It Affects All of Us

The U.S. House of Representatives has just voted for a bill that would lead to massive cuts in Medicaid. We should all care about that because these cuts affect us.

Medicaid covers

- 1 in 5 people living in the United States
- 4 out of 10 births –that's nearly half
- 4 out 10 children
- 1 out of every 6 adults
- Nearly half of children with special care needs
- 5 in 8 nursing residents (Kaiser Family Foundation data; links below)

These are not just numbers; they are your neighbors, maybe even your children and grandchildren, or your father or grandmother. They are my great grandchildren, and the granddaughter of a dear friend. Who among us does not have someone dear to us who is covered by Medicaid?

And let's abolish the myth that people on Medicaid don't work. Perhaps you know someone who is on Medicaid that should be working. This can happen, but research shows that this would be an exception.

Approximately 92 percent of non-elderly Medicaid adults are either working full-time (64 percent) or part-time (28 percent). The remaining 8 percent or are not working due to qualifying reasons, such as caregiving responsibilities, illness or disability, or school attendance. This does not include people under 65 who are on social security disability programs. https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-work-requirements/

We should remember that when people receive health care coverage, they are more likely to be able to work regular hours and contribute to the local economy. Healthy children do better in school. All of these things benefit our community. Taking away Medicare coverage from people not only hurts them, it hurts all of us.

In addition, working people pay for services such as Medicaid through payroll deductions. So let's face it, our representatives who voted for this bill are not asking people to stop paying in, but they certainly want to stop paying out.

Naomi Ludman
Dowagiac

This isn't about big government. It's about cutting waste, ending bureaucracy, and giving people direct control over their lives.

A Basic Income Could Help Rural Michigan Thrive

Editor:

Here in Cass County, we don't ask for handouts, we ask for a fair shot and the freedom to make our own way. But too often, Lansing and DC bury us under layers of red tape and programs that don't fit rural life.

That's why I believe that it's time to seriously consider a Universal Basic Income, a flat monthly payment to every adult American, no strings attached.

This isn't about big government. It's about cutting waste, ending bureaucracy, and giving people direct control over their lives. Instead of dozens of overlapping programs that make you jump through hoops, imagine one simple system where you decide what your family needs most—groceries, gas, home repairs, or saving for a rainy day.

For places like Dowagiac, Marcellus, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg and Vandalia, this could mean more people remaining in our communities rather than leaving, starting small businesses, or caring for loved ones without the fear of going broke.

We could pay for it by eliminating corporate subsidies, streamlining the government, and taxing polluters instead of workers. That's not socialism, that's common sense.

A basic income could help our rural communities thrive, not by making people dependent, but by giving them a solid foundation to stand on their own two feet.

Jason Gatties
Dowagiac

NEWS

Mishawaka men charged in JD's Truck Stop shooting

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERTRAND TOWNSHIP — Prosecutors have charged two men in connection with the June 6 shooting at JD's Truck Stop in Bertrand Township, according to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

Sean Rader, 26, of Mishawaka, has been charged with Accessory After the Fact (felony) and Ryland Mayfield, 18, of Mishawaka, is charged with three counts of Assault with intent to Murder, one count Carrying a Concealed Weapon, one count Felony Firearms and one count Misc Weapons Offence.

Both individuals are lodged at the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow.

At approximately 3:38 a.m. Friday, June 6, police responded to JD's Truck Stop for a victim who was shot. The victim, 27-year-old Kristian Hertsel, of Niles, was transposed to Memorial Hospital in South Bend and survived.

Officers learned that the shooting stemmed from a road rage incident that occurred nearby while the two vehicles were travelling on US-12 in Bertrand Township. Members of the detective bureau were able to locate the suspects' vehicle in Indiana. Berrien County Sheriff's Office detectives worked with members of the Mishawaka Police Department to locate and arrest the person believed to be responsible for this incident.

Leader Publications will be updated when more information is available.

Niles donates to Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

NILES — The Niles City Council moved to make sure community members can experience the city's rich past.

The council voted 5-1 to approve a $2,500 donation for the annual Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House during Monday's meeting. The donation is made possible using funds from the council's Community Promotion's budget. Fourth Ward council member Michael Thompson cast the dissenting vote. Council members Charlie McAfee and Georgia Boggs were absent.

Fort St. Joseph was founded in 1691 and was abandoned in 1781. It was a trading post, mission and garrison located on the St. Joseph River in Niles. The Fort was controlled by three European countries: France, Britain and Spain, and was also occupied by several Native American groups, including the Potawatomi.

Since 1998, Western Michigan University has worked in partnership with the City of Niles and support from the greater community to discover the community's history through its annual archaeology field school.

The culmination of this work is the Archaeology Open House event held this year on Aug. 2 and 3. The Open House offers visitors a chance to peek into the pits and see this year's finds, experience a living history village with re-enactors demonstrating 18th century life and take a ride in a replica birch bark canoe on the St. Joseph River.

Attendance and all of the Open House activities are free, though donations will be Accepted to support the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.

Merchandise and food will be available for sale. Several community groups have helped to sponsor the event including Support the Fort Inc. and the City of Niles.

For further information, visit wmich.edu/fortstjoseph or contact the Niles History Center at (269) 845-4054.

In other business, council:

- Approved the renewal of the MML membership dues, including legal defense fund, at a cost of $7,768.00 covering the period of July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026 as allowed for in the 2025 fiscal budget.
- Accepted the bid from Quality Environmental of Baldwin, Michigan in the amount of $5,100.00 for asbestos removal at the Niles History Center, including a budget amendment to the FY2025 budget, and charged the expense to the History Center's repairs and maintenance budget.
- Accepted the bid from Cameron's Construction, LLC of Niles, Michigan in the amount of $24,871.00, including Bidder's Exceptions, for installation of an ADA bathroom at 303 S. 3rd Street, with the expense to be paid for with CDBG funds.
- Approved the proposed FY2024 CDBG Subrecipient Agreements with the YMCA of Greater Michiana in the amount of $15,000, WeEcho for $7,500, and increased the allocation to the School Resource Officer program by $3,500.
- Accepted the bid from Niblock Excavating of Bristol, Indiana in the amount of $56,080.00 for the 2025 City Hall Parking Lot Resurfacing Project, with $18,695.33 paid from the DPW City Hall Building Repairs and Maintenance account and $37,386.67 paid from the Utility Maintenance Office Building Account.
- Accepted the bid from ACE Plumbing and Heating of Stevensville, Michigan in the amount of $5,516 for installation of a water heater and associated exhaust work at 1720 N. 11th St., with the expense to be paid for with CDBG funds through the Home Repair Program.
- Authorized the Mayor and the City Attorney to sign the FY 2025 FTA Certifications and assurances affirming the City's compliance with required FTA rules and regulations and authorize staff to file and PIN the necessary documentation in TrAMS (the electronic grant management system).
- Hosted the first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Niles Code of Ordinances to manage third party attachments to City of Niles' utility poles.

BUDGET

Continued from page A3

foundation grant from the current $9,608 to $10,000 while cutting some other state funding for schools. Some are even proposing an increase in the per pupil foundation grant to $12,000, he said.

"That would bring in another $3 million to the district, but they're also talking about cutting all categorical funding," he said. "Cuts to the at risk categorical would amount to $1.5 million alone … Any kind of proposed increase will come with a cut somewhere."

With all that said, Wilburn unveiled the proposed 2025-26 general fund budget. He has set revenue at $17,881,420 and expenditures at $18,679,120 for a deficit of $797,700. He noted that he included no raises for staff and a five percent "haircut" in state funding in the new budget.

If those numbers hold up through the 2025-26 year, the district would end the year with a fund balance of $3.4 million which represents 18.23 percent of fund equity. "That's lower than we would like but it's still healthy," he said.

Besides the discussion of the budget amendment and new budget, board members heard reports from Middle/High School Principal Evan Winkler and Technology Director Cody Ostrander. Both reported on end of the year activities as well as plans for the coming year.

Action at Monday's meeting included setting the out of state tuition rate at the state foundation grant level which is now $9,608. Board members also approved a new payroll collaborative with Bridgman schools.

Action expected at the June 23 meeting besides approving the budget amendment and new budget include setting the tax millage rate and renewing memberships in the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Niles Daily Star

ADMINISTRATIVE
PUBLISHER
Rich Cains
(219) 455-2349
rich.cains@leaderpub.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
Amy Glover
(269)687-7717
amy.glover@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
(269) 362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

DESIGN CENTER MANAGER
Allison Dale
allison.dale@leaderpub.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Joshua Turnock
Caitlin Schlemmer

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
(269) 591-6105

Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, **25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120**. Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.

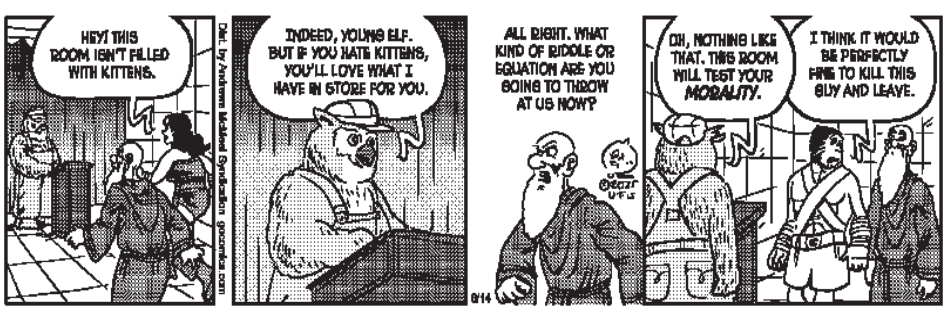
Established in 1886 • USPS 390-620 •www.leaderpub.com

COMICS & PUZZLES

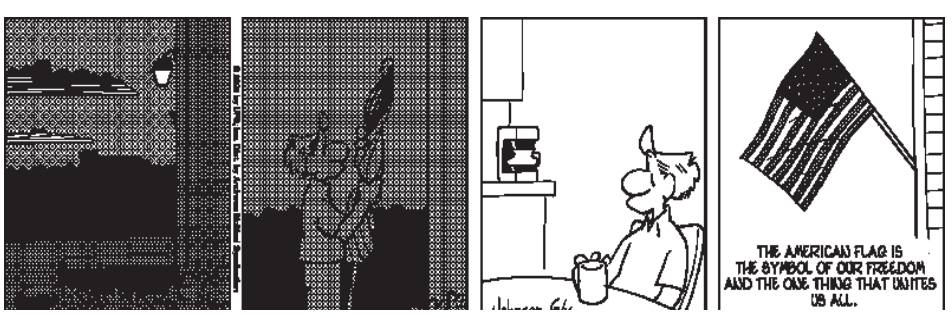
ADAM

DAD SAYS IT'S NO BIG DEAL THAT I'M NOT A "SPORTS GUY."
COOL.
I SEE WHY PEOPLE LIKE SPORTS. I JUST PREFER MONSTERS AND COMICS AND STUFF.
I PREFER WATCHING AN ALIEN PLANT EGGS IN A FACE THAN THREE-POINTERS.
IT'S MY LOVE LANGUAGE!
OKAY. JUST... MAYBE NEVER SAY IT THAT WAY AGAIN.

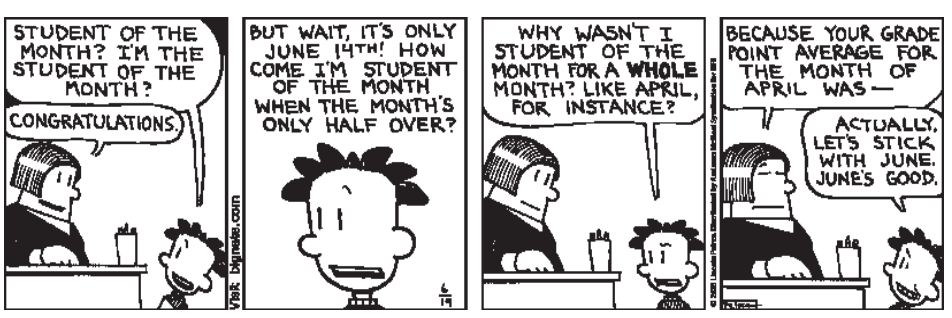
ALLEY OOP


HEY! THIS ROOM ISN'T FILLED WITH KITTENS.
INDEED, YOUNG ELF. BUT IF YOU HATE KITTENS, YOU'LL LOVE WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU.
ALL RIGHT. WHAT KIND OF RIDDLE OR EQUATION ARE YOU GOING TO THROW AT US NOW?
OH, NOTHING LIKE THAT. THIS ROOM WILL TEST YOUR MORALITY.
I THINK IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY FINE TO KILL THIS GUY AND LEAVE.

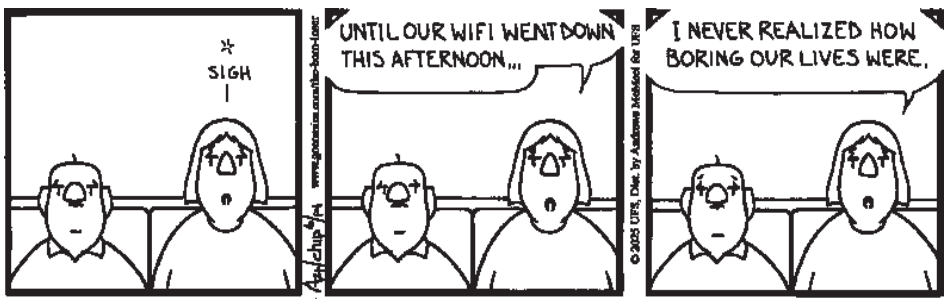
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE

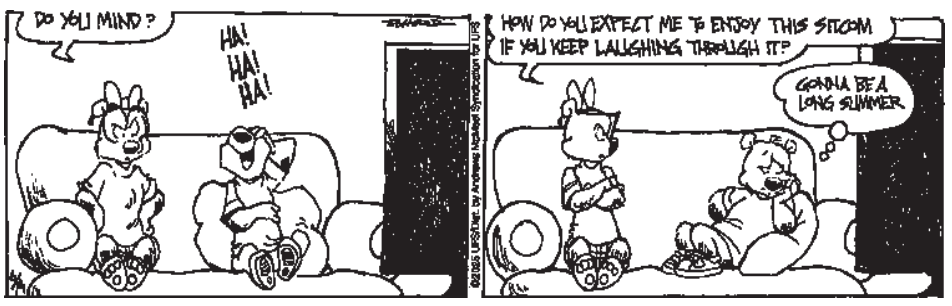

STUDENT OF THE MONTH? I'M THE STUDENT OF THE MONTH?
CONGRATULATIONS.
BUT WAIT, IT'S ONLY JUNE 14TH! HOW COME I'M STUDENT OF THE MONTH WHEN THE MONTH'S ONLY HALF OVER?
WHY WASN'T I STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR A WHOLE MONTH? LIKE APRIL, FOR INSTANCE?
BECAUSE YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WAS—
ACTUALLY, LET'S STICK WITH JUNE. JUNE'S GOOD.

BORN LOSER

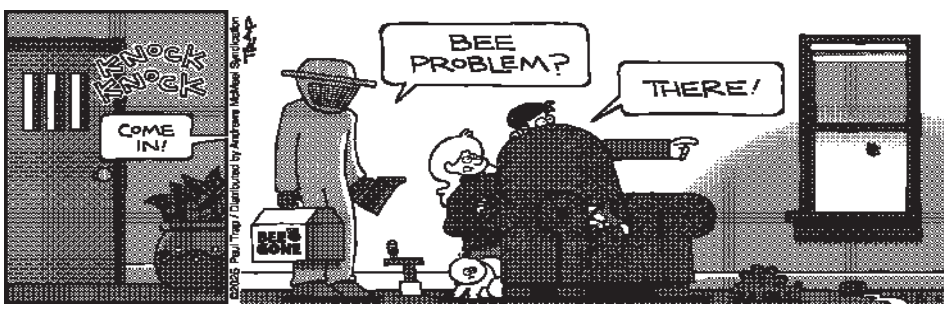


FRANK & ERNEST

GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



YOUR AD HERE
CALL TODAY
Find out how to grow your business in print and online. Call (269) 683-2100.
LeaderPublications

Money doesn't grow on trees...
But you can find it in your local newspaper.
With hundreds of dollars in coupon savings every week, your local newspaper pays for itself... and then some!
Call today to subscribe! 269-687-7710
Leader Publications • www.leaderpub.com

SODOKU PUZZLE

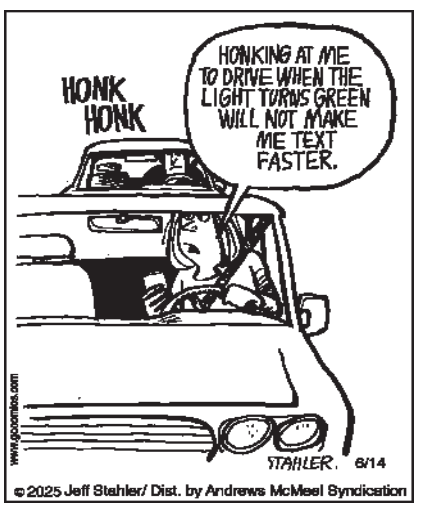
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

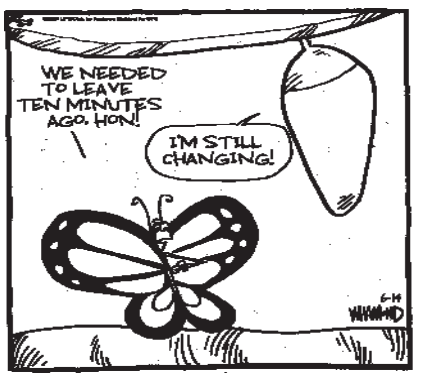
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

					6	9	5	7
				7	5		2	4
			9	2				
	3				2	8		
	2			4			7	
		6	5				9	
				3	7			
3	6		1	9				
1	9	7	2					

MODERATELY CONFUSED


HONK HONK
HONKING AT ME TO DRIVE WHEN THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN WILL NOT MAKE ME TEXT FASTER.
STAHLER 6/14
© 2025 Jeff Stahler/ Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

REALITY CHECK

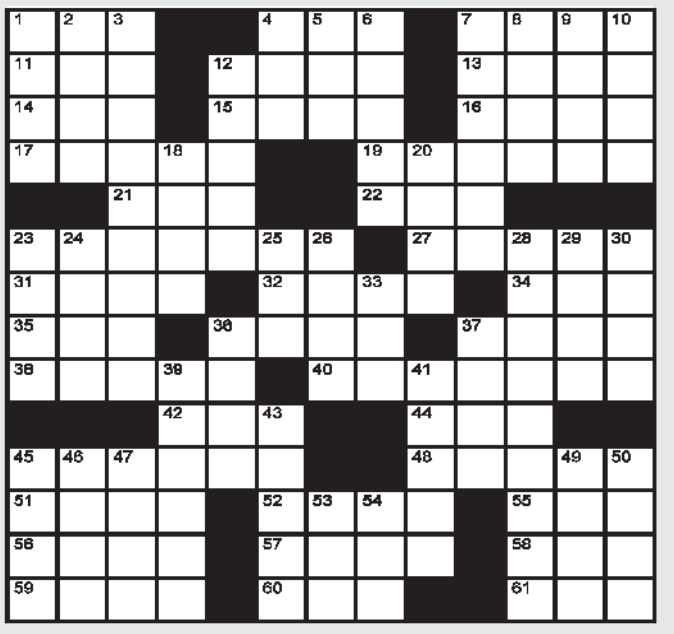


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 India's — Mahal
4 Peach center
7 Transparent mineral
11 Regret
12 Horseback sport
13 Utah city
14 ABA member
15 Pitcher
16 Ebb —
17 Exodus leader
19 Selected
21 Consume
22 In what way
23 "Abbot Elementary" and "Ghosts"
27 Catches
31 "Thirty days — ..."
32 Family member
34 Calendar abbr.
35 Time
36 Liberate
37 "Think nothing — —!"
38 Code name
40 Destructive insect
42 Parrot
44 Black gold
45 Things of value
48 Long-legged wader
51 Decelerate
52 Cab cost
55 Ventilate
56 Confident
57 Singer Tori —
58 Plus
59 — -do-well
60 Flat fish
61 Finish

DOWN
1 People mover
2 Roadster
3 Moneyed traveler (2 wds.)
4 "Wham!"
5 — -de-France
6 Flambeau
7 Detroit, musically speaking
8 Eye part
9 Yield
10 Word of agreement
12 Basil sauce
18 For one
20 Emcee
23 Not genuine
24 Shakespearean villain
25 Damage
26 Fat
28 Network TV member
29 Determination
30 Scene
33 Born (Fr.)
36 Length measures
37 Drop
39 Shish kebab pin
41 "The War of the —"
43 "— — as I'm concerned ..."
45 Org.
46 Skid
47 Angry
49 MGM's mascot
50 Walked on
53 Physicians' org.
54 Singer — Orbison

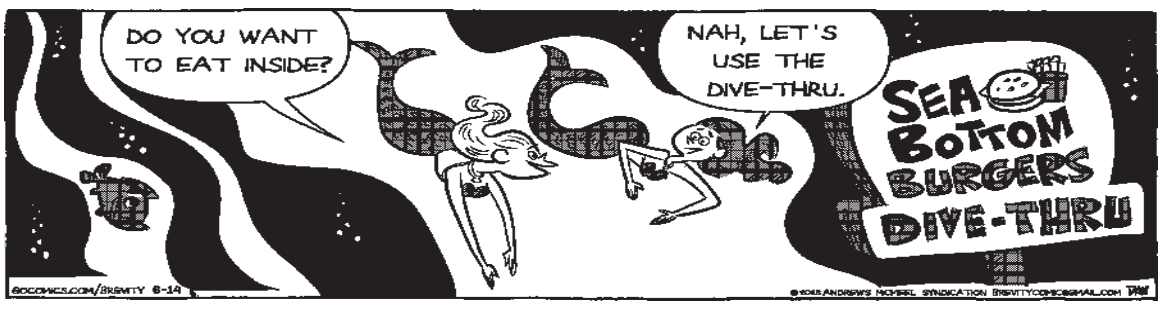
ANSWER ON PAGE 6



6-14

© 2025 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

THE FALLS BRIDGE PARTY WAS IN FULL EFFECT WHEN MARTIN ARRIVED.
HE SAW A GIRL STANDING AWAY FROM THE FESTIVITIES.
HEY, I'M MARTIN. YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
SONIA AND YEAH, I LIVE HERE.
SONIA'S DEFINITELY A GHOST, ISN'T SHE?
SHUSH! LET ME FINISH!

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Lisa Croteau, Linda Skwarcan and Stefan Vogt were presented with awards at the annual Chamber Pulse Luncheon June 5 at The Morris Estate.

WHITMER

Continued from page A1

also do the right thing on behalf of energy consumption and climate but it's also to ensure that we're not letting China come in and underwrite their sales in this country and decimate an Industry that has been so critical to to Michigan's success," she said. "We want people to make their choices but we also want to ensure that China doesn't make the choice for us."

Whitmer talked about the state's "60 by 30" goal, which aims to increase the number of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree from 51.8 percent today to 60 percent by 2030. She highlighted the state's initiatives to help accomplish the goal, including

Futures for Frontliners – which offers essential workers an opportunity to complete high school or community college tuition-free – and Michigan Reconnect, a program that will help pay the costs of tuition or training for eligible adults who want to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate at their in-district community college, as ways to help close the skills gap.

"That's why this goal is so important," she said. "All of these paths are about making it easier for each Michigander to find their path and to do it in a way that doesn't cripple them for life with debt they have to pay off."

Whitmer also highlighted the Chapin Mansion Restoration and the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Project as being among seven Michigan preservation projects awarded Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation and how historic preservation projects like Niles' are helping to attract businesses and talent to the state.

"We recognize the history and heritage but we're doing cutting edge things for the preserve it," she said. "These are all different ways that we play into making sure that Michigan is a place that young people will flock to,call home and will stay here."

The following people and businesses were awarded:

Small Business of the Year – The award was presented to Veni's Sweet Shop and accepted by owner Linda Skwarcan. The award is presented to a small business demonstrating leadership, innovation, business growth, community engagement and capital investment. For more than 100 years, Veni's has been serving the Niles community with its sweet treats. Veni's products can be found regionally in stores from Dowagiac to Buchanan to South Bend and Notre Dame. Veni's is also a 2025 recipient of the Chamber's Digital Storefront Grant that will fund six months of e-commerce consulting which will help rebuild her website and develop digital solutions to bring her products to market online.

2025 Distinguished Leader Award – This award was presented to Niles Main Street Director Lisa Croteau. The award honors an individual who demonstrates a pioneering spirit, makes significant contributions to the area business environment and shows personal involvement and commitment to the community. Chamber officials said Croteau was selected for 25 years of work to make downtown Niles a vibrant, welcoming place to live, work and visit.

Economic Impact Award – The award was presented to Bonnnell Aluminum and accepted by plant manager Stefan Vogt. This award is presented to a business or organization demonstrating strategic vision –combined with a substantial investment in the community – leading to economic growth for the greater good of the region.

RYMAN

Continued from page A1

"My condolences go out to Don Ryman's family," she said. "I didn't know him too well but I know he attended the commission meetings regularly and was a great asset to Buchanan."

Monday's commission meeting was brief overall with only a few items on the agenda. Commissioners approved the low bid of $2,550 from J & M Site Worx LLC of Niles to demolish a city owned obsolete bathroom structure at 310 Richards St. The company has promised to have the work done by early July.

Community Development Director Rich Murphy said that 100 percent of the costs will be paid by the Niles-based Hunter Foundation.

Public Works Director Mike Baker couldn't say how long the structure had been there, but said it dated back to at least the 1990s. He noted that it was never used but had been installed as part of a bigger project that included a walking trail and a fishing platform.

In construction updates, City Manager Tony McGhee said the retaining wall on Front Street will be done this week and the Days Avenue culvert is pretty much done. The trail extension on Schirmer Parkway was supposed to be paved last week but has been delayed until this week due to recent rains, he said.

"Getting those three projects done will help a lot around town," McGhee said. "The work on Liberty and Rynearson is scheduled for the end of this week and we will tell neighbors and have a detour route. Downtown we're moving at a good pace."

PRISON

Continued from page A1

possession of a firearm by a prohibited person charge and a mandatory consecutive two years in prison on the felony firearm charge. He has credit for 204 days on the felony firearm charge and must pay $68 on that charge.

The incident occurred Nov. 18 outside the Speedway station at South 11th and Fort Streets in Niles Township.

According to testimony at a November preliminary hearing, Davis confronted a former co-worker, Dontae Lavon Murphy, outside the gas station and the two struggled over Murphy's gun. Davis is alleged to have taken the gun and shot at Murphy.

Murphy said the two were outside the truck initially and then he went back into his truck when Davis came up again and they wrestled over the gun Murphy had in the pocket of his hoodie. Davis got the gun and fired at Murphy and told police he would have fired again if it hadn't jammed. Murphy went inside the gas station and the police were called.

Murphy was treated at South Bend Memorial Hospital for a gunshot wound while Davis was treated at Corewell Lakeland Hospital in Niles for the injuries he received.

Monday, defense attorney Carrie Briseno said Murphy should not be considered a victim in the case as the jury did not convict Davis of the assaultive crimes against Murphy. She said Davis did not fire the gun with the idea of hitting Murphy.

Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch said that while Davis didn't bring the gun to the incident and that the gun was Murphy's, Davis did go to the scene with the intent to scare Murphy. She said Murphy had a serious psychological injury as he thought he was going to die.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein agreed with Briseno that Murphy couldn't be called the victim as the jury didn't convict Davis of assaultive crimes. He did however agree with Koch that Murphy did suffer a psychological injury from the incident.

Koch said overall it was a very traumatic experience and that it's always very dangerous for a felon to have a weapon. "It was very dangerous for everyone at the gas station," she said.

Briseno called the case "very unfortunate" and said that Davis had only one prior felony conviction and one prior misdemeanor conviction. She said that while Davis went to confront Murphy, it was Murphy who introduced a gun into the situation.

Davis said he plans to appeal his convictions. He also talked about possibly pressing charges against Murphy for injuring his ear.

"I'm going to prison for somebody trying to beat me with a gun?" he asked.

Also Monday, the man who robbed JD's Truck Stop last December was sentenced to probation and jail.

Todd Forker, Jr., 30, of Stevensville, pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery and was sentenced to three years probation, 365 days in jail with credit for 153 days already served, $469 in restitution and $658 in fines and costs. He was ordered to complete the Tri-Cap or similar inpatient program and can serve the rest of his jail sentence there.

Forker

The incident occurred in the early morning hours of Dec. 21 at JD's Truck Stop off of U.S. 12 in Bertrand Township.

Forker's co-defendant, Gina Stevens, 50, of Stevensville, did not go into the building but drove the getaway car. She was sentenced last week for unarmed robbery and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served, 100 hours of community service, $678 in fines and costs and $469.64 restitution.

Defense attorney Amy McDowell said Forker was not the mastermind in the incident as had been portrayed by Stephens and her attorney. "They were both equally involved," she said. "Ms. Stephens said my client got her involved with heroin and that's not true. She was already addicted to opiates and got her heroin from my client's father."

McDowell called it a "perfect storm of addiction". "It was not one person corrupting the other," she said. "He and Ms. Stephens need to stay away from each other … This was very uncharacteristic for him, his voice was cracking when he demanded the money, he did not want to do it."

Judge Hosbein agreed that Forker and Stephens need to stay away from each other. "Everybody understands that this was a crime of opportunity," he said. "They robbed the store to get money to buy drugs. They have to address the underlying issues of drug and mental health treatment."

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

T	A	J			P	I	T		M	I	C	A
R	U	E		P	O	L	O		O	R	E	M
A	T	T		E	W	E	R		T	I	D	E
M	O	S	E	S			C	H	O	S	E	N
			E	A	T			H	O	W		
S	I	T	C	O	M	S		S	N	A	G	S
H	A	T	H		A	U	N	T		F	R	I
A	G	E		F	R	E	E		O	F	I	T
M	O	R	S	E		T	E	R	M	I	T	E
			K	E	A			O	I	L		
A	S	S	E	T	S			S	T	I	L	T
S	L	O	W		F	A	R	E		A	I	R
S	U	R	E		A	M	O	S		T	O	O
N	E	E	R		R	A	Y			E	N	D

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

2	8	3	4	1	6	9	5	7
6	1	9	8	7	5	3	2	4
7	5	4	9	2	3	1	6	8
9	3	1	7	6	2	8	4	5
5	2	8	3	4	9	6	7	1
4	7	6	5	8	1	2	9	3
8	4	2	6	3	7	5	1	9
3	6	5	1	9	4	7	8	2
1	9	7	2	5	8	4	3	6

Mayor Don Lyons

St. Joe TODAY
EAT • SHOP • STAY • PLAY

CELEBRATES

Continued from page A1

community for many years. They previously served on the council from 2018 to 2022, and returned in 2024.

"A strong and resilient community doesn't happen by accident; it takes deliberate action to cultivate trust and build relationships. When we work together to promote fairness, raise public policy awareness, and foster spaces that attract our diverse population to collaborate, we all benefit," says Nelson.

• **St. Joe Today, Saint Joseph:** "We are deeply humbled and honored to receive this inaugural award from the Outcenter. Our work is rooted in the simple belief that a welcoming place for everyone is the foundation of a strong community. To be recognized for our commitment to

placemaking—creating a space where every person feels they belong—is the highest compliment we could receive. We were proud to assist in finding a home for this year's Twin Cities PrideFest and look forward to continuing to build a vibrant and inclusive St. Joseph for all."

"The work of local elected leaders and civic organizations committed to equality has always mattered to the LGBTQ+ community," says MaryJo Schnell, Executive Director of OutCenter. "Lyons, Jessica, and the team at St. Joe Today has been working to create more inclusive communities across our area. OutCenter is grateful to their efforts and celebrates their wisdom, commitment, and dedication to our shared mission. Join us for PrideFest 2025 as we celebrate the enormous contributions from these leaders."

PrideFest 2025 Awardees:

Don Lyons, Mayor, Dowagiac

"As you get to know us better, what you'll find Dowagiac is: a community that builds roads and bridges and not walls; a community that welcomes everyone, regardless of what god they may pray to or whether or not they pray at all; a community that welcomes everyone, regardless of who they may choose for their life partner; a community that welcomes everyone regardless of the color of their skin; a community that welcomes everyone regardless of their gender identification; a community that doesn't fear the future but embraces it knowing that the changes the future brings will also bring opportunities to make Dowagiac a better community; and a community where everyone is treated with dignity respect. "

Jessica Nelson, City Council Member, Niles

"A strong and resilient community doesn't happen by accident; it takes deliberate action to cultivate trust and build relationships. When we work together to promote fairness, raise public policy awareness, and foster spaces that attract our diverse population to collaborate, we all benefit. My focus as your representative is to be a bridge between the needs and desires of the citizens and the work of the City staff, so that we can all thrive in this wonderful place we call home."

St. Joseph Today, St. Joseph

"We welcome and value every voice as an integral part of our growing, changing, and diverse community. We recognize that people's experiences have contributed to our past, shape our present, and can change and improve our future. We recognize that because of individual stories, our common story is stronger. We acknowledge the strength of our community's narrative is based on the fact that it is a shared narrative. Any voice can change our community and all voices have a part in shaping our community."

DEATH NOTICES

Larry DuBois, 80, of Berrien Springs, passed away Wednesday, June 04, 2025. Arrangements have been made with Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs. Services taking place on Tuesday June 10. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Brenda Vine, 64, of Mishawaka, passed away on June 5, 2025 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Teresa Barnes, 78, passed away June 7, 2025. Services will be June 13, 2025 at Hope Community Church beginning at 11 a.m. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

Richard Olsen, 85, of Niles, passed away on Thursday, June 5, 2025 in St. Joseph. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Carl Beck, 78, of Niles, passed away on Thursday, June 05, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNIles.com

Barbara Williams, 93, of Niles, passed June 8, 2025. Funeral services will be June 11, 2025 at 11am at Brown Funeral Home, Niles. Arrangements by Brown Funeral Home, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

OBITUARIES

Max Campbell

December 7, 1938
- June 4, 2025

Max Hartman Campbell passed away on June 4, 2025, at the age of 86. Born in Battle Creek, Michigan, Max spent the majority of his life in Dowagiac, where he left a lasting mark as a math teacher and tennis coach at Dowagiac Public Schools.

Max had a sharp mind and a wry sense of humor. He didn't suffer fools, preferred the road less traveled, and tolerated life's quirks. He was an avid collector of memorabilia, a lover of trivia and games of chance, and a lifelong fan of oldies music. He spent many enjoyable hours following the Detroit Lions and Tigers and the University of Michigan football. In the last months of his life, he recaptured the joy of spending time with family.

Surviving are his son, Scott (Terri) Campbell; daughter, Melanie (Joe) Gardner; two grandchildren, Nicholas (Alexa) and Kendall; and two great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Ford and Daisy (Betz) Campbell; brother, Jack Campbell; and wife, Carla Campbell.

In keeping with Max's wishes, no formal ceremony will be held. To honor his memory and in recognition of the battles he and so many close to him have faced, the family suggests donations be made to the American Cancer Society in his name. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel and Cremation Services - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. To share a memory or message of condolence, please visit Max's personalized page at www.clarkch.com.

Max lived his life on his own terms — with intelligence, grit, and a touch of rebellion. He will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

Barbara "Jean" (Merrill) Schultz

May 30, 1939
- May 25, 2025

Barbara "Jean" (Merrill) Schultz (age 85) of Cassopolis, Michigan, stepped into the presence of her Lord and Savior on May 25, 2025. The Bible verse she highlighted during her last days, her "wow" verse was Psalm 73:23-24 "Yet I am always with you, you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your council and afterward you will take me to glory."

Jean was born in Jackson, Michigan, on May 30, 1939 to Margaret Delores (Futrell) Merrill and

Ray Shannon Merrill. She attended Jackson High School and Eastern Michigan College. In 1957, she took a summer job as a secretary in the Edsel Division of the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, where she fell in love with a first year mechanical engineer, Max Schultz.

Jean and Max were married in February of 1958, and raised their two children, Steve and Jill, in the South Bend, Indiana area. A few years later, the family purchased a gentleman's farm in nearby Niles, Michigan, where Jean's lifelong dream of having a horse was finally realized. Life on the small farm was filled with many animals and special moments of joy. In 1969, Jean's love for children inspired her to move a 100-year-old one room schoolhouse to the farm. Country Lane Nursery School was created and enjoyed by 120 preschoolers each year. She made a lasting impact on each child and their families. In her own family, the role of grandma was always filled with crazy fun had by her five grandchildren, such as creating skits and planning treasure hunts.

Jean was blessed with boundless energy and a desire to connect and encourage people. After moving to Cassopolis, Michigan, she shared her time and creativity with the clubs she founded like the Diamond Lake Kayakers and the Diamond Lake Bike Club.

With an enthusiasm for local history, Jean volunteered (occasionally appearing in costume) at the Bonine House (part of the Underground Railroad), the Newton House, the Red Brick Schoolhouse and the Cassopolis City Hall. Jean founded a newspaper called "On and Around the Water", highlighting lake events and history, all the while networking and uplifting people.

Jean wintered in Naples, Florida, also impacting the community there with her special gift of love for others.

Jean's greatest passion was to share the love of Jesus with anyone God placed in her path.

She also desired to grow in her personal relationship with Jesus. She loved to read her Bible, participate in Bible studies and attend church. She attended Trinity Bible Church of Edwardsburg, Christ Community Church of Naples and Capri Christian Church of Naples. Jean wanted all those she connected with to know that there is only one thing that matters, especially when facing death; and that is one's relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the Way, Truth and Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." John 14:6 "For God so loved the world that He gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Preceding Jean in death were her loving husband, Max, her parents, Marge and Ray Merrill, her brothers-in-law, Sam Schultz and Major Richard Jones as well as sister-in-law, Joan (Schultz) Roberts and niece, Valerie (Roberts) Reidenbach.

Surviving family members include her children, Steve (Anita) Schultz of Paradise Valley, Arizona and Jill (Steve) Weber of Niles, Michigan. Her grandchildren: Adam (Kylee) Weber, Kristin Weber, Max (Shannon) Schultz II, Stockton (Courtney) Schultz and Alex (Elizabeth) Schultz, along with her 9 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are her brothers, Bill (Sandy) Merrill and John Merrill, sisters-in-law, Sandra (Schultz) McFarland, Sharon (Schultz) Jones, and brother-in-law, Willard Roberts, along with numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, you are welcome to make a donation to the following: Cass County Historical Society, P.O. Box 21, Cassopolis, MI 49031 ccmihistoricalsociety.org, Trinity Bible Church of Edwardsburg, 69950 M-62, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 https://www.trinityedwardsburg.org/giving, or Cass County Council On Aging, 60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, MI 49031 casscountycoa.org

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 5 pm on June 22, 2025 at New Life Church, 11593 East McKinley Hwy in Osceola, IN 46561. Visitation will take place one hour prior, from 4-5 pm.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Swem Chapel, Buchanan. Those wishing to send a Condolences online may do so at www.swemchapel.com.

George Edward "Ed" Smith

George Edward "Ed" Smith, 79, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Thursday, June 6, 2025, at home surrounded by family.

His life began February 13, 1946, in Niles, Michigan, he was the eldest of five children born to George and Barbara Smith. He married Terrie on January 5, 1996, in Centreville, Michigan.

Ed was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was his happiest when surrounded by family. When not with his family and helping with projects, he was on his tractor working around his home and in the fields. Ed will always be remembered for his smile and sage advice. He was kind hearted and always willing to help others whenever needed. He will be missed dearly.

Ed is survived by his wife of twenty-nine years, Terrie Smith of Cassopolis; one daughter, Melissa (Randy) Troyer of LaGrange, Indiana; four sons, Paul (Jennifer) Smith of Howe, Indiana, Kenneth Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jared (Elizabeth) Smith of Galesburg, Rock (Jessica) Ruthsatz of Saugatuck; fifteen grandchildren; two great grandchildren; one sister, Kathryn Dockerty of Dowagiac; three brothers, Warren (Millie) Smith, John (Eileen) Smith, Harold (Deb) Smith, all of Cassopolis; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Barbara; great granddaughter, September Rose; and brother-in-law, Ken Dockerty.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Ed's life at his residence Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Eleanor Lambrecht

February 5, 1935
- June 8, 2025

Eleanor Joy Lambrecht, 90, of Dowagiac, died Sunday, June 8, 2025 after a long illness. She was greatly cherished by her family.

A memorial gathering will be held from 12:00am - 2:00pm on Wednesday, June 18, at Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St., Dowagiac. A Celebration of Life Service will begin at 2:00pm, with Pastor Stacey Wilder from Calvary Bible Church officiating. Burial of the urn to follow at Keeler Cemetery, 85537 Co Rd 687, Hartford. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cass County Humane Society. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.clarkch.com.

Eleanor was born, February 5, 1935, in Decatur, to Kenneth and Irene (Fruzen) Brownell. A lifelong Dowagiac resident, she had worked for Heddon Lures, Lyon Industries, and as a lunch lady at Dowagiac Union High School. She married Larry Lambrecht on December 3, 1971, in Cassopolis. Larry preceded her in death in 2019.

Eleanor will be missed dearly by her daughters - Victoria (Mike) Jones, Penny Efting (Brian Lange), Judy (Scott) Efting and Trudy Lambrecht; sons - Steven Mead, Larry Lambrecht Jr., Ricky Mead and Michael (Brenda) Mead; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and sister - June Dings.

Eleanor will be remembered for being a loving mother and grandmother. Additionally, she had a great fondness for the outdoors including camping in Baldwin and Canada, as well as gardening.

Marjorie Bowles

December 14, 1942
- June 8, 2025

Marjorie Bowles, an example of love and selflessness, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2025, at the age of 82, at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana. Born on December 14, 1942, in Fosston, Minnesota, to the late Melvin and Clara (Heimarch) Dounley, Marjorie's life was a testament to her unwavering faith and boundless compassion.

Marjorie's educational journey was driven by a strong belief in the power of education and a desire to serve others. She earned her Nursing Degree and a Master's of Social Work. Her career as a nurse psychotherapist included time as a traveling nurse with the Flying Doctors, where she touched countless lives. Marjorie was deeply committed to stewardship and established her private practice to address women's issues, leaving a lasting legacy of care and kindness.

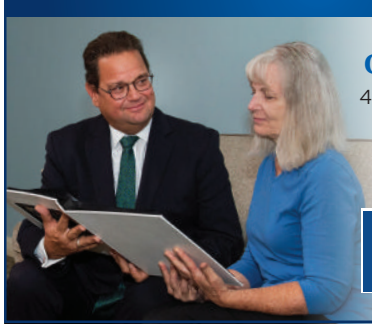
On October 9, 1965, Marjorie married the love of her life, John Bowles, in a beautiful ceremony in Crookston, Minnesota. Their union was one of mutual respect, deep affection, and shared adventures until John's passing. Marjorie's legacy of love continues through her daughter, Christine Derwent, her son-in-law Thomas Derwent and her cherished grandson, Alexander Derwent.

Marjorie's interests were as vibrant and varied as her personality. She was a lover of all people, embracing everyone she met with open arms and an open heart. Her artistic talent was evident in her watercolor paintings, which were

See OBITUARIES, Page A8

Lorie Bowers, Agent
68935 Gateway Dr.
PO Box 623
Edwardsburg, MI
49112-0623
Bus: 269-663-7015
www.LorieBowers.com

Family is Why WE DO IT ALL
Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.
Office Hours:
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday by Appointment
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE®
StateFarm.com® • State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Celebrate a life

CLARK CHAPEL
405 Center St, Dowagiac
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

Wagner FAMILY FUNERALS
burials • cremations
Only you can understand your loss...
...we care enough to try.
Connelly Chapel
Cassopolis
269.445.2435
Pobocik Chapel
Three Oaks
269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

Robert Clayton
30+ Years Experience
PLASTERING & DRYWALL
• Fast Dependable Service
• Clean Quality Work
• Finish and Repair
• Water Damage Specialist

269-695-7621
4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

Thinking of moving to the country? This updated, quality built, traditional 2 story home has a wrap around porch, natural woodwork, two full baths, central air, detached two car garage and two large outbuildings with 4.8 acres. These owners have had horses.
Call for your showing today!

Jan Luke
925 S 11th St., Niles
(269) 362-0483
Red Shoe Realty

PIPESTONE SMALL ENGINE
We now carry Simplicity
Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment
Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors
Husqvarna
GRAVELY
• Cylinder Boring
• Machine Shop
• Engine Rebuilding
• Crankshaft Regrinding
Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton
Ariens • Husqvarna • Tanaka • Gravely
4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 · 269-461-6421
www.pipestonesmallenginemi.net

We'll be there when you need us most

Mission Hills
Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens
- Since 1953 -
Niles • 269-683-8333 • MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com

MONUMENTS By Design LLC
Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
www.monumentsbydesignllc.com
monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans
Paul E. Mayhew Funeral Home, Inc.
26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI
269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

Join us on a group trip.
7-9 - Soaring Eagle Casino & Spa overnight trip.
FREE SLOT PLAY
Monthly trips to FireKeepers
August 13; September 10;
October 8; November 12
SIGNAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
www.signaltravel.com
Give us a call or see our website for more information.
269-684-2880
1-800-811-1528

ECKLER'S PRODUCE
RIPE TOMATOES AVAILABLE ALL SIZES
STRAWBERRIES, CUCUMBERS
FRESH PICKED LETTUCE
BULK SEED
ONION SETS
SEED
POTATOES
LAST CALL FOR VEGETABLE PLANTS!
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
DRY GOURDS FOR CRAFTING
1879 Barron Lake Road • Niles, MI 49120
7 Days a Week • 9am to 5:30pm
269-683-2509
www.EcklerFarms.com

Donald B. Dahm Estate
ESTATE AUCTION
Monday - June 16 @ 12:00 Noon
Located at 1205 Sassafras Lane - Niles, MI
(North of US-12 on West River Road)
Mower * Garage Items: Troy-Bilt 17.5 H.P. Riding Mower w/Rear Bagger; Wheel Barrel; Yard Cart. Furniture * Collectibles * Art Work: Dining Room Table; China Hutch; Breakfast Table w/Chairs; Black Rattan Furniture; Beds; Dressers; Assortment of Paintings; Artwork; Misc. Items.
REAL ESTATE offered at 12:00 Noon: 3 Bedroom 2-1/2 Bath Brick Ranch Home, Fireplace, City Water & Sewer, Heated 2 Car Garage, Separate Tool Building, Call for Terms.
Open House - Sunday, June 15 from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Glassman Auction Service
WEB: glassmanauctions.com - auctionzip.com - gotoauction.com
John Glassman (269) 757-3315

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A7

as bright and joyful as her outlook on life. Marjorie's daily positive and encouraging messages, which reached over 400 people, were a source of inspiration for many. Her deep involvement in community outreach—from crafting blankets for the homeless to sending clothing to third-world countries—reflected her faith-filled and selfless nature.

Those who knew Marjorie will fondly remember her as Alec's 'Mimi,' a role she embraced with every ounce of her adventurous spirit. Her belief in angels and their protective presence was a cornerstone of her spirituality, and she lived each day with the conviction that she was guided and guarded from above. An avid traveler, Marjorie's sense of adventure took her to many corners of the world, and she often recounted tales of her explorations with sparkling eyes and infectious enthusiasm.

Marjorie and her husband John shared a passion for boating, spending countless hours on the water, basking in the serenity of nature and each other's companionship. Marjorie had a deep love for the outdoors, enjoying activities such as snowmobiling, skiing, and gardening. She cherished watching nature while sitting on her front porch, savoring the sundown with a glass of wine or in the kitchen baking up a batch of her delectable cookies. Her love for music was evident in her regular attendance at live events, especially at Fiddler's Hearth, where she was a familiar and beloved figure

In her life, Marjorie embodied the words of Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." This philosophy was the guiding principle of her existence, and it shone through in every act of kindness and every moment of connection she shared with the world.

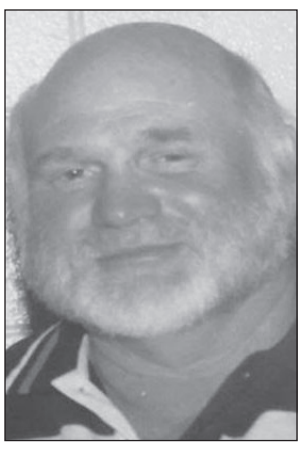
A mass will be held for Marjorie Monday, June 16, 2025 at St. Mark Catholic Church beginning at 11 a.m., with a time of visitation an hour prior.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation in honor of Marjorie have been asked to consider Pet Refuge, 4626 S Burnett Dr, South Bend, IN 46614.

Photos, condolences and memories can be left for Marjorie's family at BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Marjorie Bowles will be remembered as a loving, faith-filled, and selfless woman whose impact on the lives she touched is immeasurable. Her spirit, a radiant light of love and service, will continue to inspire those who were blessed to know her. As we bid farewell to Marjorie, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and a soul that will forever enrich the tapestry of our memories.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.



Norlan E. Wolf

January 26, 1945
- June 6, 2025

Norlan E. Wolf, 80, of Eau Claire, passed away on Friday, June 6, 2025 at his childhood home. Norlan was born on January 26, 1945, to Alvin & Helen (Skibbe) Wolf in Dowagiac. Norlan graduated with the Class of 1963 from Eau Claire High School and continued his education although briefly at Michigan State University. Higher education just wasn't what fulfilled him, and he realized farming would be both his passion and as any real farmer knows also a curse. He appreciated and respected everything farm life gave him, the ups and downs, the freedom to jump on a tractor and tend the land that God provided. He loved everything from growing produce and grain along with raising livestock, everything that is but the picking, packing or markets which he left up to Josie, who he married in McAllen, TX on December 21, 1974. Their partnership on the farm would last for over 50 years. Those that knew him from childhood and the farming community knew him by many names - Norlan, Mr. Wolf or Curly. He usually made his rounds whether it be by tractor or pick-up truck, stopping by auctions or just a drive-by on a dirt road with a full-on arm wave, that you couldn't miss. If you had the chance to catch a visit with him, boy did he like to talk. He was the life of every party and told it like it was. He left an impact .... not on hundreds of people but very deep impacts on the ones he valued and held close to him. Norlan is survived by his wife Josephina Enriquez; children, Julia Wolf, Brenda (Jason) Crisenbery, Joseph Wolf and Rafael (Clemencia) Lopez; grandchildren, Jacquelynn Dufour, Rafael Jr. Lopez, Skylar Crisenbery, Vanessa Crisenbery, Erica Lopez, Edwin Lopez, and Callie Crisenbery; and brother Delbert Wolf. A celebration of life gathering will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at Starks Family Funeral Homes- Heritage Chapel, 8747 US 31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, from 4PM until 6PM. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.heritage-chapel.com.

Joann Hall

December 2, 1950
- May 27, 2025

Joanne Hall, 74, of Vandalia, died peacefully Tuesday, May 27, 2025, in the comfort of her family's presence. Her life began December 2, 1950 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the second of four children born to Ellis and Bernice Lofton.

Joanne will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by one daughter, Tracy Lofton; one son, Leroy Hall, Jr.; three grandchildren, Donte Lofton, Jordan Lofton, Adonis Hall, great grandchildren, Charles Lofton, Jamar Smith, brothers, William "Uncle Paul" Lofton, Ellis J. Lofton, Sr.; sister-in-law, Odessa Lofton; and a host of nieces and nephews, with one special nephew, Quetin Lofton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one granddaughter, LeQueshia DeNae Wyatt; and one brother, Charles W. Lofton.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Donald F. Ryman

April 11, 1928
- June 8, 2025

Don Ryman, 97, of Buchanan, Michigan, died Sunday, June 8, 2025.

He was born April 1, 1928, in Brady Lake, Portage County, Ohio, the son of Floyd Jay and Anna Grace (Hottel) Ryman. He was educated in Ohio public schools, graduating from East Canton High School in May 1945. In June 1948, he graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in History and Phi Beta Kappa honors.

In June 1951, he graduated from Harvard Law School with a Bachelor of Laws degree, which was reclassified as a Juris Doctor in 1969. He passed the Ohio Bar examination in November 1951 and was subsequently admitted to the Michigan Bar in 1959 and Indiana Bar in 1986.

To satisfy his military obligation during the Korean War, Don enlisted in the United States Navy in July 1951. He was selected Honor Man of his boot company at the United States Naval Training Center in San Diego. He graduated in Class 6 of the U. S. Naval School, Officer Candidate at Newport, Rhode Island with an unrestricted line commission as Ensign, U.S.N.R.

He was sent to the Eighth Naval District Headquarters in New Orleans where he served as an Assistant District Security Officer. In 1953, he met Martha Payson of Culver, Indiana at the New Orleans Unitarian Church Coffee Hour. They fell in love and were married on March 6, 1954, at the New Orleans Unitarian Minister's parsonage.

For the last year of his obligated service, Don was assigned to the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Coral Sea (CVA-43) with the Sixth Fleet out of Norfolk, Virginia. At the time, the Coral Sea was the newest and one of the three largest aircraft carriers in the U.S. fleet. On the Coral Sea he served as Legal Officer and Junior Officer of the Deck. Don was released to inactive duty as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in July 1955 and went to work as an Associate Lawyer with the firm Smith & Schnacke in Dayton, Ohio. In July 1956, while on inactive duty, he was promoted to Lieutenant, U.S.N.R. In December 1963, having completed his obligated service in the Naval Reserve, he received an honorable discharge.

In October 1957, Don joined the Legal Department of Clark Equipment Company, a Fortune 500 Company with corporate headquarters at Buchanan. He served as a member of the Legal Department for thirty-two years, retiring in 1990 as Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary. He continued to work for Clark as an outside counsel until 1995, thus serving a total of thirty-seven years as a legal counsel with Clark. During the 1960s, Clark grew to become a Fortune 200 Company.

Don was active in the State Bar of Michigan, serving two years as Chairman of the Business Law Section. He took an active role in drafting and passage of the Michigan Business Corporation Act, a modern corporation law, in 1972. He was also active in the Berrien County Bar Association, serving as President in 1975-1976.

From January 1,1995 through December 31, 2010, Don served as the elected Berrien County Commissioner for District 11, comprising the City of Buchanan, the Townships of Buchanan, Bertrand, and Galien, and the Village of Galien. For eleven of those years, he served as Chairman of the County Finance Committee. One of his projects as County Commissioner was the creation and funding of the Buchanan Area Senior Center.

In 1981, Don and his wife Martha helped found the Buchanan Preservation Society. Martha was the first President. They played a leading role in saving and restoring the Pears Mill. Over the years, Don and Martha served various terms as directors and officers of the Society. Commencing in 1983, Don and Martha also served several terms as directors of the Berrien County Historical Association. In 1985, Don served as President.

Over the years, Don has been active in land use planning, starting with his appointment to the Buchanan Plan Commission in 1961. In 1967, he became a member and Chairman of the recently formed Berrien County Planning Commission. While a member of the County Commission, he served as liaison to the Berrien County Planning Commission. He was also a member of the Board of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and, more recently, of the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study.

From age four, Don was very interested in automobiles and trucks and particularly antique cars. He drove one of his 1927 Model T Fords in every Buchanan Memorial Day Parade from 1967 through 2010, stopping the car and cranking it for the entertainment of the watchers, most of whom had never seen a car cranked. (He never broke his arm in the process.) He was a member of the Pioneer Automobile Association of South Bend from 1965.

For many years Don appeared as Elvis Presley at 313 West Front Street during trick or treat.

He was President of the Clark Salaried Retirees Club, which had a monthly luncheon and speaker. He was an original member of the Board of the Berrien County Legal Aid Bureau and more recently served on the Board of Legal Aid of Western Michigan.

Don continued to practice the Unitarian-Universalist faith all his life.

His wife Martha died March 28, 2019, just twenty-four days after they celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Don is survived by three daughters: Emily Ryman and Ann (Bill) Maurer of Culver, Indiana, and Mary (Peter) Lysy of Buchanan, Michigan; seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

In addition to his wife Martha, he was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Robert Ryman; and his sister, Dorothy Miller.

The family prefer contributions in memory of Don be made to the Buchanan Preservation Society, Post Office Box 357, Buchanan, Michigan or via their website, preservebuchanan.org or to the Berrien County Historical Association, Post Office Box 261, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103 or via their website, berrienhistory.org.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online at halbritter-wickens.com.

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Council (name of governing body) of the Village of Vandalia (name of taxing unit) will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.2231 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025 -

The hearing will be held on Monday, July 7th (day, date) at 6pm (time a.m./p.m.)

at Vandalia Village Hall, 18043 State St, Vandalia, MI 49095 (place, address)

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 1.32% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 0.78% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:

Village of Vandalia
name of taxing unit
18043 State Street
street address
Vandalia, MI 49095
city, state, zip
269-476-2344
phone

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Celebrate a life

SWEM CHAPEL
301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks
Family Funeral Homes
& Cremation Services

TRACK & FIELD

Local club track program hosts Run With Love Track Meet

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A local AAU track program hosted some of the best young track athletes in the Michiana region last week at Niles High School for an opportunity to compete against each other.

The Team Love Track Program hosted its inaugural Run With Love Track Meet Saturday, June 7 at the high school.

Athletes ages eight-and-under to 18 from nine clubs from Michigan, Indiana and Illinois participated in the event, with several local athletes earning medals.

Carter Brann (100 8-U), Ollie Rodgers (100 13-14), Vaughn Asmus (200 13-14), Theo Arsenau (400 13-14), Andre Love (100 17-18, long jump 17-18), Aydan McCarey (400 17-18, 110 hurdles 17-18), John Brickley (800 13-14; 1,500 13-14), Izabel Hoskin (100 dash 17-18, 100 hurdles 15-16), Loryanna Harris (High jump 13-14) and Haylei Patterson (80 hurdles 11-12) took home first place medals.

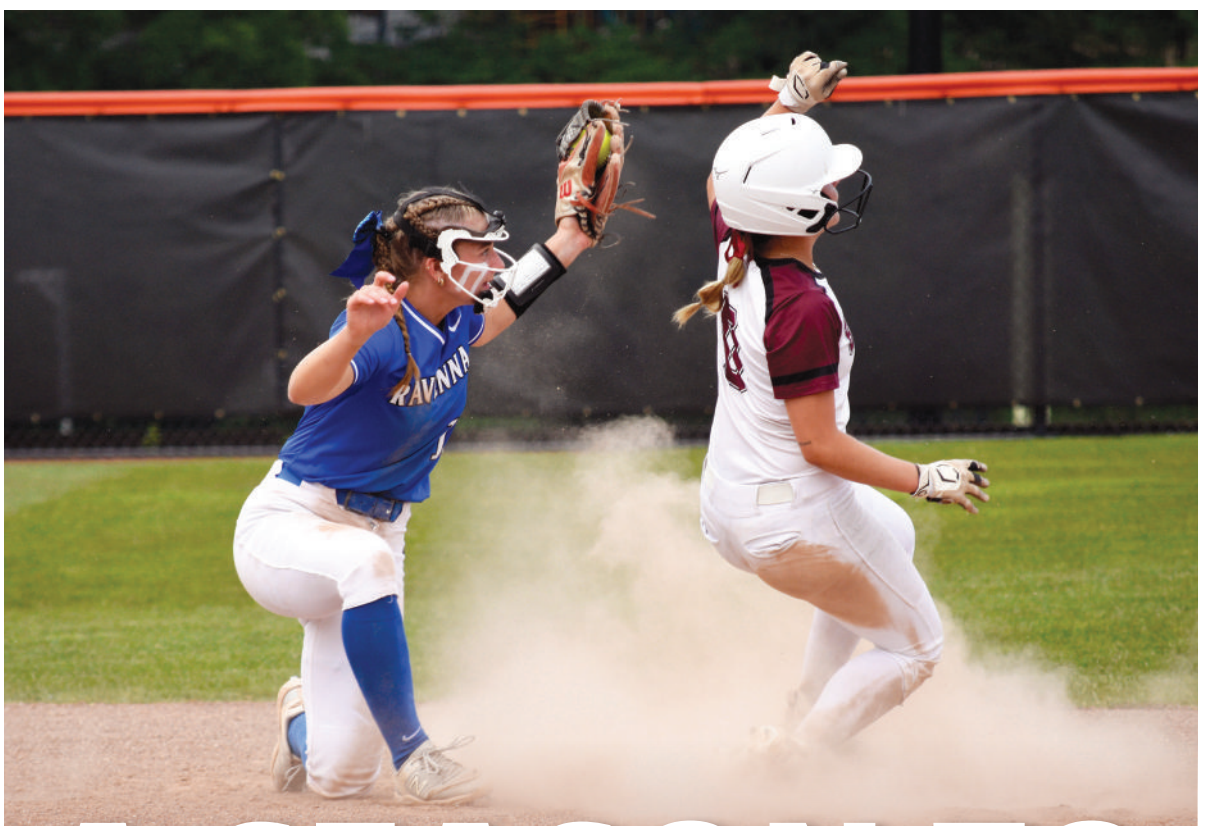
Founded four years ago by former Niles track standout Andre Love, the program has grown to more than athletes ranging from 5 to 18 years of age from throughout Southwest Michigan who compete in indoor and outdoor meets across the state.

"Running with love means com-

See TRACK, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Team Love Track coach Andre Love poses with members of his team during the inaugural Run With Love Track Meet Saturday, June 7 at Niles High School.

SOFTBALL



A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Buchanan softball falls to Ravenna in state quarterfinals

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

KALAMAZOO — Before the 2025 season began, there weren't many people, except Buchanan's softball players and coaching staff, who believed the Lady Bucks were capable of making another long postseason tournament run.

After losing three all-state performers off her 2024 ballclub, Rachel Carlson's Lady Bucks lost four of its first six games this season.

But behind the leadership of four seniors, Buchanan put things together and proceeded to win 26 of its final 34 games before ending the season with a 10-0 loss in six innings to Ravenna Tuesday in the Division 3 state quarterfinals at Kalamazoo College.

Ravenna's win avenged a 3-1 loss to Buchanan in the 2024 quarterfinals at the same location. Buchanan then fell 8-3 to eventual state champion Evart in last year's semifinals.

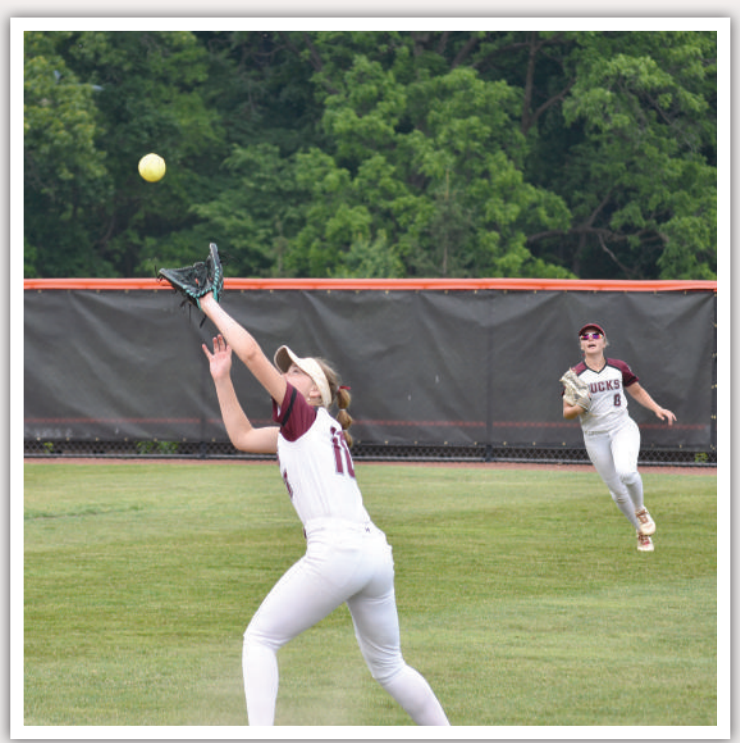
Ravenna (35-4) advances to face Clare (38-2) in Friday's 5:30 p.m. semifinals at Michigan State University's Secchia Stadium. The other semifinal at 3 p.m. pits Algonac against Grass Lake. The winners meet in Saturday's state finals at 5:30 p.m.

"We started off the season slow. These girls could've pitched their tent and quit on that mission, but they didn't. They actually got stronger and started to buy into the difficult schedule we play and accepted the challenges and matured as a group," Buchanan's head coach said.

Ravenna made it an uphill battle for Buchanan from the very start as the Bulldogs built themselves a 5-0 lead after the top of the first inning. Emma Herreman, Addison Gillard and Sydney Morrisey all had RBI singles and Kendyl Luce delivered a two-run single to highlight the Bulldogs' big offensive start.

"That's a tough way to start, but we've played from behind a lot this season. I thought we'd compete but Ravenna's two pitchers kept us off balance the entire game. I felt our kids did a great job though of fighting through the whole game and keeping their heads on straight. There were a lot of tough innings because they (Ravenna) are an offensive powerhouse," Buchanan's head coach said.

See SEASON, Page B3



Buchanan senior second baseman Julia Prenkert (10) gets under the ball to haul in a catch of a flyball in Tuesday's Division 3 state quarterfinals loss to Ravenna.

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Caitlyn Horvath (0) gets up after sliding safely into second base ahead of the tag by Ravenna shortstop Reese Herremens.

SPORTS

Judge approves landmark NCAA settlement

COMMUNITY REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California has granted final approval to a settlement in the House v. NCAA ("House") litigation.

This landmark settlement – agreed to by plaintiffs representing nearly 400,000 current and former student-athletes and the NCAA, Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big Ten Conference, Big 12 Conference, Pac-12 Conference and Southeastern Conference (SEC) – will reshape the landscape of college sports, paving the way for a model that prioritizes fairness, stability, integrity and opportunity for student-athletes and institutions.

Overseeing this model will be the newly established College Sports Commission – an independent body that will be responsible for implementing the settlement terms governing revenue sharing, student-athlete Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals and roster limits. The Commission will investigate any potential violations of these rules, make determinations regarding potential rules violations and penalties, provide notice and opportunity to be heard, participate in the arbitration process and ultimately administer penalties for violations of these rules. The Commission's leadership team will be announced in the near future.

Under the new system, student-athletes will have more opportunities to financially benefit during their participation in intercollegiate athletics than ever before. Institutions are now able to share revenue directly with student-athletes, in addition to providing existing benefits such as athletic scholarships, access to world-class training facilities, academic counseling, medical care, post-eligibility medical coverage, mental health resources, nutritional guidance and life skills development.

Beginning July 1, 2025, each year, participating schools can distribute up to 22% of the average revenue among schools in the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC from media rights, ticket sales, and

See NCAA, Page B3

WRESTLING

Ennis chooses SMC wrestling

Courtesy of SMC Athletics

DOWAGIAC — Orion Ennis of Gobles High School has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to wrestle for Coach Todd Hesson and the Roadrunners during the 2025-2026 season.

Her coach at Gobles said, "Orion is all heart, with a little bite. She has a willingness to learn and the grit needed to step on the mat to face whoever is on the line!

Hesson added, "Orion has an enthusiasm for the sport of wrestling. She is looking forward to helping grow and develop the SMC's Women's program!"

Ennis had 14 wins in two seasons at Gobles and placed at various tournaments throughout Southwestern Michigan. She joins Madisyn Harrison of Marcellus, Grayce Swanson of Plainwell and current SMC student Alyse Koss in the 2024-25 recruiting class.

In April 2024, SMC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of Women's Wrestling, Men's Track & Field and Women's Track & Field as official NJCAA sports, to start competition in Fall 2025. Only 29 other NJCAA schools nationally currently offer women's wrestling. SMC will be the first two-year college in Michigan to offer the sport.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WRESTLING

Willman picks SMC

COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS

DOWAGIAC — Brady Willman of Miamisburg High School in Ohio has signed his NJCAA Letter of Intent to wrestle for Head Coach Todd Hesson and the Roadrunners.

Willman had a high school record of 75-24. He was a three-time placer in the Greater Western Ohio Conference, two-time district qualifier, section champion and freestyle state champion. Willman also placed in the Greater Miami Valley Wrestling Association Holiday meet, was Valley View Invite champion and Miamisburg Invite champion and twice earned honors as a National Scholastic Dual All-American.

He joins Cole Reitz and Logan Gilbert of Climax, Cal Chapman of Dowagiac, Gavin VanKirk of Mason, Chaz Underwood and Mazzy Lambert of White Pigeon and teammate Jayden Cochran of Miamisburg as the eighth signee in the 2025 SMC Wrestling recruiting class.

In 2024-2025, the Roadrunners again went undefeated in the MCCAA Duals Meet, earned the three-peat in the MCCAA Conference championship, defeated three nationally-ranked teams to win the Great Lakes District and qualify the maximum ten wrestlers for the national meet. SMC finished the season at No. 14 in the country and sophomores Colby Klinger and Nathan Andrina were honored as All-Americans.

On April 9, the college announced the construction of a new 11,195 square-foot wing of the Zollar Building that will quadruple the space available to the men's and women's wrestling teams. It will double the mat capacity for practice sessions and provide additional competition space for hosting conference and regional meets. The new facility will also include a dedicated fitness and warm-up area, coaches' offices, locker rooms and additional restrooms. On-site work is well underway and occupancy is targeted for February 2026.

SPORTS

229 Wolverines Earn Spring Academic All-Big Ten Honors

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

ROSEMONT, Ill. — The Big Ten Conference announced its 2025 Spring Academic All-Big Ten honorees on Wednesday (June 11), with 229 University of Michigan student-athletes garnering the recognition.

Criteria for making the Academic All-Big Ten team include being in at least their second academic year at their institution and maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

The breakdown of Michigan student-athletes on the list is 13 from baseball, six from men's golf, four from women's golf, 30 from men's lacrosse, 29 from women's lacrosse, 30 from rowing, 14 from softball, seven from men's tennis, six from women's tennis, 36 from men's track and field, 39 from women's track and field and 15 from water polo.

Michigan had six student-athletes with perfect 4.0 GPAs in Aiden Felty (men's track and field), Owen MacKenzie (men's track and field), John McNeil (men's track and field), Leah Hill (women's track and field), Brooke Johnston (women's track and field) and Aasia Laurencin (women's track and field).

The conference office also awards Academic All-Big Ten distinction in the fall and winter seasons, and the Distinguished Scholar Award at the end of the academic year. Student-athletes eligible for the Distinguished Scholar Award must be letterwinners in at least their second year in residence at their institution. Qualifying student-athletes must have earned a GPA of 3.7 or higher for the current academic year, excluding summer school.

SPORTS

160 Spartans earn Spring Academic All-Big Ten honors

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE ATHLETICS

EAST LANSING — The Big Ten Conference has acknowledged its spring sport student-athletes – including 160 from Michigan State – who earned Academic All-Big Ten honors.

To be eligible for Academic All-Big Ten selection, students must be on a varsity team (as verified by being on the official squad list), have been enrolled full time at the institution for a minimum of 12 months and carry a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

The selections for the Spartans encompass the sports of baseball, softball, men's and women's golf, rowing, and men's and women's track & field.

Perfect 4.0 GPA's belong to eight Spartans: women's tennis players Matilde Morais (Cascais, Portugal) and Natalie Stasny (Woodrige, Ill.), and track & field standouts Kyle Eberhard (Linden, Mich.), Emily Bardwell (Brunswick, Ohio), Natalie Blake (Holland, Mich.), Sophia Lucki (Toronto, Canada), Val Pallett (Farmington, Mich.), and Madison Price (Trenton, Mich.).

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TRACK

Continued from page B1

ing together," Love said. "Our group says, 'one love' at the end of every break and that means that we unify in what we agree on, which is track. We all are unified in track, that's our one love. It's our passion."

Love, who is also a pastor, said he created the program to prepare athletes to compete at the AAU Junior Olympic Games and is proud of his team's efforts. Last year, 15 members of the team qualified for the Junior Olympic Games.

"We have kids on our program right now that have never run track and then we have some that went to other schools but didn't do so well. Today's meet gives them a taste of what's getting ready to happen, because our end goal is the Junior Olympics."

Love said the meet serves as a way to bring the community together through track.

"Run with love is really just to bring people together and just kick it. "Our country is so divided in so many areas, so to bring all these different people in one location is huge. "Our kids are making friends that they'll see for the rest of the summer."

SPORTS

‘The Mitten’ Becomes Sought-After Symbol of MHSAA Greatness

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

COURTESY OF MHSAA COMMUNITY REPORT

The MHSAA championship trophy – often referred to as “The Mitten” – has become perhaps one of the most iconic and enduring symbols of this organization over the last 25 years, most frequently greeting visitors strolling past a school’s trophy case or serving as the centerpiece of celebration photos over the final month of every sport season.

More than 2000 MHSAA trophies are presented to teams every school year, the great majority to District, Regional and Finals champions at the high school level.

There actually have been several versions of MHSAA trophies awarded over the last century – probably more than we can tell about, since our knowledge of the first 30-40 years especially is reliant on photos of winning teams holding their awards, and trophies that have been returned to us after a school has closed or those artifacts have made their ways into yard sales or second-hand stores.

Our early trophies take on a few specific designs – there are traditional cups, later columns affixed to bases with inscriptions celebrating champions, or metal statuettes representing their respective sports. Later versions incorporated a combination of those features, for example a square or rectangular wooden plaque affixed to a base with a statuette (or two, or even three) decorating the trophy. The 1974-75 version was especially notable; celebrating the 50th year of the MHSAA, those trophies included a large county map of Michigan and the state seal.

During the mid-1980s, the MHSAA made another move to a unique design among its trophies – a circular award affixed to a base by a wooden arm at a 45-degree angle. Then came a return to a more traditional squared-off pedestal and statue before the 1989-90 move to a triangular plaque – which in theory could be hung up in a trophy case as something of a space-saver. But that idea didn’t seem to gain traction – which in part led to the creation of the inaugural version of “The Mitten” awarded today.

That first rendition made its debut during the 1992-93 school year. What started out as an artistic wooden representation of the state’s peninsulas evolved at the start of 2009-10 into the current more map-accurate version of the state’s land masses affixed to a black background. The only noticeable change since has been the addition this 100-anniversary year of a medal at the top celebrating that milestone.

How beloved has “The Mitten” become?

During the 2008-09 school year, our students let us know. With the MHSAA Trophy & Medal Committee deliberating on a possible two design – and two proposals that did not include the wooden state version in the mix – then-Executive Director Jack Roberts presented the possibilities to the MHSAA’s Student Advisory Council.

In resounding fashion, the Advisory Council said keep “The Mitten” – and it remains the symbol of achievement for thousands of MHSAA Tournament champs every school year.

SPORTS

Hidalgo earns USA Basketball women’s AmeriCup team trials spot

COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Hannah Hidalgo will have the opportunity to play for a spot on Team USA this summer, as the Notre Dame junior is one of 21 athletes named to participate in the 2025 USA Basketball Women’s AmeriCup Team trials, which begin June 17 at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Prior to enrolling at Notre Dame, Hidalgo won gold medals as part of the U17 and U19 Women’s World Cup teams in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Additionally, she was named the 2023 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year.

Last season, Hidalgo was one of the nation’s top guards, earning a spot on the AP All-America First Team for the second straight season. In doing so, she became just the fourth player in history to make the First Team in each of their first two years of collegiate basketball.

As a sophomore, Hidalgo set the Notre Dame single-season record with 23.8 points per game, topping the mark she set as a freshman (22.6). All in all, Hidalgo currently holds 23 Irish records, including single-season steals (160), steals per game (4.6). She ranks 18th in program history with 1551 career points and reached the 1000-point mark in a program-record 44 games.

Should Hidalgo make the team, she will travel to Santiago, Chile from June 28-July 6 for the 2025 FIBA Women’s AmeriCup. The United States will open play in Group B with host nation Chile before facing Colombia, Puerto Rico and Mexico. The winner of the 2025 FIBA Women’s AmeriCup will earn a spot in the 2026 FIBA Women’s World Cup in Berlin next summer.

SEASON

Continued from page B1

Gillard launched a two-run homer over the center-field fence in the fourth, increasing the Bulldogs’ lead to 7-0.

Sophomore Reese Herremans, Emma’s younger sister, added a two-run double in the fifth to pad Ravenna’s lead to 9-0.

Junior Riley Homoly scored the Bulldogs’ final run in the sixth on a sacrifice-fly to center field by sophomore Taylor Nutt.

It was a frustrating day offensively for Buchanan, which never advanced a runner past second base the entire game. The Lady Bucks left five baserunners stranded.

Sophomore Cora Weinberg highlighted Buchanan’s day at the plate with a first-inning double. Senior Caitlyn Horvath blasted a pair of singles, while sophomore Khloe Singleton and freshman Mailey Ely both added base hits for the Lady Bucks.

Horvath started the game on the mound for Buchanan (28-12) and was charged with the loss. She gave up five runs, six hits and walked one.

Junior Haylee Legault finished up in the circle for Buchanan, replacing Horvath with no outs in the second. Legault allowed five runs, five hits, six walks and she hit one batter.

Gillard started for Ravenna and was credited with the victory. The senior hurler gave up two hits and struck out three. Bulldogs’ sophomore Natalie Rosel relieved her and registered seven strikeouts and gave up three hits.

“Our lineup 1-9 is a very difficult one to pitch to. You never know who is going to come through with a big hit. Our schedule this season was very brutal. We played some very good teams, including a few Division I and Division II schools. Facing those types of programs are going to help us immensely this weekend in terms of the pace of the game and the level of pitching we will face,” said Ravenna head coach Dave Sherman. “When you can hit like we do then get great defense and a solid 1-2 pitching combination it makes you tough to beat.”

Buchanan’s senior class of Horvath, Teyla Coquilard, Cameron Carlson and Julia Prenkert were part of a Buchanan program that compiled a 134-31 record the past four seasons, including four district titles, three regional crowns, three state quarterfinal appearances and one semifinal berth.

Horvath, an all-state outfielder as a junior, finished a great career, including breaking Buchanan’s school record this season for most hits in a single season.

“My seniors were incredible. They served as great mentors to the younger kids under them because they understand what it takes to get here. It was incredible for me as a coach to be able to watch them bring this group together,’ Rachel Carlson said.

Buchanan will return eight underclassmen off this year’s squad next season, including four sophomores, one freshman and four juniors.

“The future is very exciting for Buchanan softball. The new faces we had this season know what it feels like now to get this far. Next time when they get back here they will know what to expect and that brings more winning,” Buchanan’s head coach added.

NCAA

Continued from page B1

sponsorships – known as the revenue sharing cap. The cap is estimated at $20.5 million per school for the 2025-26 academic year, pending final confirmation. To ensure revenue sharing with student-athletes is appropriately managed and reported to the Court for compliance, athletics departments will use the new College Athlete Payment System (CAPS) platform developed by LBi Software.

Student-athletes will also be able to continue receiving compensation from third-parties other than their institutions for the use of their NIL, so long as their NIL deals are made with the purpose of using their NIL for a valid business purpose and do not exceed a reasonable range of compensation. On behalf of the College Sports Commission, Deloitte* has built and will maintain a new technology platform called NIL Go in which student-athletes will be required to report their NIL deals to confirm they are in compliance with the rules. Deals will be evaluated based on:

• Payor association – The relationship between the payor and the student-athlete’s school.

• Valid business purpose – Whether the payor is seeking the use of the student-athlete’s NIL for a valid business purpose, meaning to sell a good or service to the public for profit.

• Range of compensation – Whether the compensation paid to the student-athlete is commensurate with compensation paid to similarly situated individuals.

Finally, for participating schools, NCAA scholarship limits have been removed and roster limits have been established for each sport, allowing for a significant increase in scholarship opportunities for student-athletes. Under this new model, schools will have the option to offer partial or full scholarships to every student-athlete on a team’s roster, as long as the total number of student-athletes stays within the sport’s specific roster limit. Efforts have also been made to ensure current and immediately incoming student-athletes are not adversely impacted by the establishing of roster limits. Removing scholarship limits allows schools to better support their student-athletes through new scholarships, particularly in non-revenue-generating sports.

“We look forward to implementing this historic settlement designed to bring stability, integrity and competitive balance to college athletics while increasing both scholarship and revenue opportunities for student-athletes in all sports,” said Tony Petitti, Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference.

“This is a significant moment for college athletics that will provide unparalleled opportunities for student-athletes. We look forward to implementing this new system which offers much-needed transparency and structure to create a more sustainable model for the long-term future of college athletics,” said Jim Phillips, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

“As we enter this new era of college athletics, it is crucial we do so with structure, transparency, and the success of student-athletes in mind — this settlement and new model will ensure that happens. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues to implement this new system that prioritizes fairness and opportunity for all student-athletes and institutions,” said Brett Yormark, Commissioner of the Big 12 Conference.

“It’s a new day in collegiate athletics. This historic moment allows us to maintain what makes college sports special, the development of young individuals through sport, while also evolving to meet today’s student-athletes where they are with new opportunities in a manner that provides long-term stability for collegiate athletics. I am proud to work alongside my colleagues as we implement and introduce the future of college sports,” said Teresa Gould, Commissioner of the Pac-12 Conference.

“The approval of the House settlement agreement represents a significant milestone for the meaningful support of our student-athletes and a pivotal step toward establishing long-term sustainability for college sports, two of the Southeastern Conference’s top priorities. As the journey to modernize collegiate sports continues, we remain focused on identifying and implementing innovative opportunities for our student-athletes across all sports while maintaining the core values that make collegiate athletics uniquely meaningful,” said Greg Sankey, Commissioner of the Southeastern Conference.

Following are significant dates related to the implementation of the settlement:

• June 6, 2025: Settlement approved; settlement-related NCAA rules are effective, as adopted by the NCAA Division 1 Board on April 21, 2025.

• June 11 2025: NIL Go portal launches.

• June 15, 2025: Opt-in deadline for non-defendant schools to fully commit to revenue sharing.

• July 6, 2025: Opt-in schools must “designate” student-athletes permitted by the settlement to remain above roster limits.

• July 1, 2025: First date for direct institutional revenue sharing payments to student-athletes.

• Start of 2025-26 academic year: With the exception of the “designated” student-athletes, Fall sports must be at or below roster limits by their first day of competition.

• December 1, 2025: With the exception of “designated” student-athletes, Winter and Spring sports must be at or below roster limits by their first day of competition or Dec. 1, whichever is earlier.

More information about the College Sports Commission and the implementation of these new policies can be found at CollegeSportsCommission.org.

Berrien County Commissioners remember Don Ryman

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — Former Berrien County Commissioner Don Ryman was remembered at Thursday's Berrien County Board of Commissioner meetings. Commissioners had a moment of silence for him and also remembered his work in a number of areas.

Ryman, 97, died early Sunday morning after a long career of public service to the Buchanan community and to Berrien County. Thursday's county board meetings were the second time this week that Ryman was remembered. Buchanan City Commissioners also remembered Ryman's service to the city on Monday.

Ryman, a former Clark Equipment attorney, was a Berrien County Commissioner for 16 years, from 1995 to 2010. He also served on the Berrien County Planning Commission in the 1960s and 1970s.

In addition to having the moment of silence for Ryman, flags were lowered at county facilities for him. "I think it was a great thing that we've lowered the flags for Don," County Commissioner Alex Ott said. Ott represents the Harbor Country area on the board.

"He was a library of knowledge," Ott said. "I talked with him often. He seemed to know everything."

Ryman's service to the county was also remembered by County Board Chairman McKinley "Mac" Elliott. Elliott noted Ryman providing legal services during the period when there was controversies over the funding of the county's senior centers.

Thursday's committee of the whole meeting featured a report on the annual audit of the county's seven senior centers. Lynda Elie and her firm have been conducting the audits for the last nine years and have helped standardize operations at all the senior centers.

Thursday, Elie said all the centers received "clean", unmodified and unqualified opinions which is the highest opinion they can get. She said a few concerns were raised during this year's audit such as having financial reports available at center board meetings and separating bookkeeping and authorized signing functions but are being addressed.

> "I think it was a great thing that we've lowered the flags for Don. He was a library of knowledge. I talked with him often. He seemed to know everything."
>
> — County Commissioner Alex Ott

The county board will vote next week on a resolution to approve the senior center terms of appropriation for the years through 2028. That resolution outlines rules for the senior centers as well as the distribution of the senior center millage funds. This year, each center will get $433,978.

The county's seven senior citizen centers are in Benton Harbor, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Coloma, Harbert, Niles and St. Joseph.

Thursday's Board of Commissioners meeting featured a presentation by Michigan Association of Counties Executive Director Steve Currie. Currie reported on the organization's mission to provide advocacy, education and services to counties around the state.

He also reported on MAC's legislative priorities for this year. He predicted that education part of the state budget will be approved soon but that the rest of the budget may not be approved until the end of the fiscal year in late September. He said having a divided government in Lansing with Republicans controlling the house has delayed action in several areas.

He said MAC is working to make sure there is a fair revenue sharing system for counties, that local governments are compensated for funds diverted by the veterans property tax exemption, that there is a permanent solution for funding Michigan courts and that road funding is increased to address the infrastructure crisis.

In committee and commissioner reports, Administration Committee Chairman Jim Curran of Niles Township said that no one submitted a bid for $5.3 million worth of work at the Berrien County Juvenile Center in Berrien Township. The county will now work to get the most needed items done, totaling $557,000.

In routine items, commissioners approved grant applications for county court programs and accepted health department and Benton Harbor farmer market grants.

Berrien County organizations to connect teens with prevention programs

COMMUNITY REPORT

BERRIEN COUNTY — A collaboration between the Berrien County Trial Court and Berrien Community Foundation has created an online tool that puts resources at the fingertips of teens and families in crisis to reduce the number of youthful offenders appearing in court.

The partnership brought about the "Teens in Need" questionnaire tool, which can be found on Berrien Community Foundation's already-existing, hyper-local online resource, Help4Berrien.org. The tool allows users to select the issue they are dealing with to pull a curated list of resources of organizations who specialize in those needs. All organizations listed are either located in Berrien County or have programs for Berrien County residents. Topics include teen parenting, counseling, alcohol and drug use, self-harm, grief support, meeting basic needs and finding low-cost or free after-school activities.

"Teens in Need is for any youth in Berrien County not sure where they could turn for help," said Berrien County Trial Court-Family Division Administrator Elvin Gonzalez. "On the county level, we've been taking steps to implement prevention programming because youth benefit from connection to community resources, which help address the factors that place them at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. There are many wonderful organizations in our community who are ready to help teens if they just ask. But how do they know who to ask? That's where the 'Teens in Need' tool comes into play."

According to data collected by Berrien County, the average age of teens admitted into secure detention was 15.8 years in 2023.

Many of the offenses committed by youthful offenders stem from behavioral and mental health needs.

The Berrien County Trial Court - Family Division has researched and implemented multi-faceted approaches to improve the well-being of teens. They convened a group of community experts and professionals to brainstorm solutions and plans to improve use of prevention programming. The Teens in Need tool was developed as a result of these meetings. Those in attendance included Susan Matheny, Berrien Community Foundation; Jenna Eavey, Deborah Foy, and Jean Lawrence, Berrien County Trial Court; Charlie Patterson, Berrien County Health Department; Alloyd Blackmon, Boys and Girls Club; Julie Earle, Bridge Academy; Sarah Frey and John Wells, Family Empowerment Services; Beth Aurand, Riverwood Center; Ron King, Benton Harbor Success Movement; and Stephen Rockette, YMCA.

Similar to how Help4Berrien users can sort resources based on topic or location, "Teens in Need" is a collection of programs aimed at helping teens resolve issues or prevent entering the juvenile justice system. Users can go to www.berriencommunity.org/help4berrien/teensinneed , answer three quick questions and have a list of reputable organizations, links to their websites, phone numbers and where they're located.

"Help4Berrien was created to be the go-to place for when people didn't know who to turn to get help," said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey. "Help4Berrien is for all of Berrien County, and, if we can add to one of our resources to make Berrien County teens feel better, healthier and happier, that's what we want to do."

Drawing from their own lives and abilities to network, Berrien Community Foundation's Women's Giving Circle launched the original iteration of Help4Berrien in 2019 to put all local resources in one place that anyone can access.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Walberg announces winners of 2025 Congressional art competition

COMMUNITY REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-05) announced the winners of the 2025 Congressional Art Competition for Michigan's 5th District.

Hailey Robbins, a student from Buchanan, received first place for her entry, Northern Lights over Michigan. The medium is acrylic paint on canvas, featuring her interpretation of the Northern Lights that she saw over a local farm in Michigan. Her winning artwork will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel to the U.S. Capitol Building.

Second place was awarded to Ava Kramer from Jonesville High School. Her entry, Downtown Michigan, will be displayed in Congressman Walberg's Jackson District Office. Ava's art teacher at Jonesville High School is Sarah Sundberg.

"Each year, I'm amazed by the artistic abilities of students across Michigan's 5th Congressional District," said Rep. Walberg. "Thank you to all students who participated in this year's Congressional Art Competition, and congratulations to both Hailey and Ava for creating such unique and impressive pieces that display the beauty that Michigan has to offer. Their hard work, creativity, and passion are evident in their artwork."

Notre Dame announces next step for emerging tech and talent district in downtown South Bend

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND — The Tech and Talent District, a keystone of the city of South Bend's Downtown South Bend 2045 plan, has advanced a step closer to implementation via a partnership between the University of Notre Dame and Ancora to pursue the development of the first phase of the district. Ancora is an investment management firm dedicated to supporting the mission and long-term goals of colleges and universities. Rising from the northeast corner of Colfax Avenue and Lafayette Boulevard, the district will sit at the intersection of research, industry and community, revitalizing a once vibrant corner of downtown while catalyzing job growth and advancing entrepreneurship in South Bend and the surrounding area.

The first phase of the project will revolve around the reimagining of the vacant former South Bend Tribune building, which, through adaptive reuse, will anchor the district along with a new research and office building at the northwest corner of Colfax and Main Street.

Notre Dame's collaboration with Ancora marks another sign of progress for the Tech and Talent District after it received a $30 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. in August 2024 through its College and Community Collaboration initiative. The district will draw world-class research and talent to downtown South Bend, allowing for collaboration with industry to advance applied research in areas such as data analytics, artificial intelligence and advanced computing.

Complementing these activities will be an array of community-facing programs, training and workshops located in the district that will advance economic well-being and strengthen the community; Holy Cross College is developing a leadership and ethics training program, while Notre Dame's South Bend Entrepreneurship and Adversity Program will expand services for local innovators.

Earlier this year, South Bend City Church opened its space in the adjacent former Tribune press building, now home to community partners such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northern Indiana Corridor. These and other community partners will amplify the role of the district as a true community resource.

"The region has taken tremendous strides in the past decade to advance a shared vision for a vibrant, more prosperous South Bend-Elkhart region," said Shannon Cullinan, Notre Dame's executive vice president. "Ancora will help us build upon that momentum with this transformative community project, just as they have done in other emerging markets."

Based in Washington, D.C., Ancora is an investment manager purpose-built to meet the evolving real estate, infrastructure and innovation needs of colleges and universities. Its integrated model combines flexible, mission-aligned capital, deep higher education insights, full-cycle real estate capabilities and outcome-driven operations. Ancora works closely with university leadership to align investments with academic, research and community goals — unlocking long-term economic and social value.

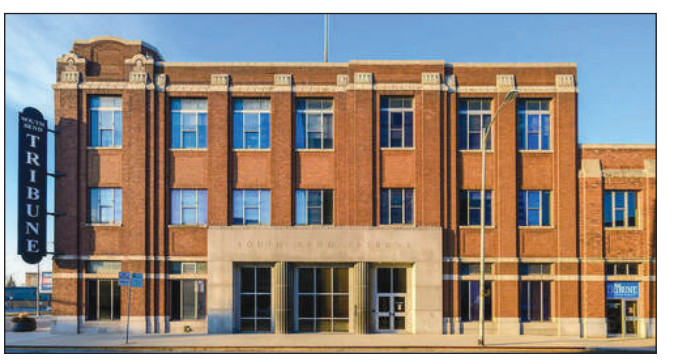


PHOTO BY MATT CASHORE | UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

"This project represents our unique approach to long-term, mission-aligned investment partnerships with universities," said Josh Parker, chairman and CEO of Ancora. "We're honored to support Notre Dame's vision of bringing students, innovators, neighbors and businesses together in the heart of South Bend — and to serve as a catalyst for this next chapter, creating a place where opportunity is within reach, talent can flourish and the benefits of growth are shared across the city and region."

Recognizing the importance of a thriving downtown to the entire region, Notre Dame acquired the Tribune property in 2023, rescuing it from vacancy. The art deco building is noteworthy as the home of the city's only daily newspaper from 1921 to 2019. It is nominated to be on the National Register of Historic Places because of its age, significance and integrity.

A significant investment in the future of downtown, the district is consistent with Notre Dame's strategic framework, which calls for further engagement to promote the economic and social well-being of the South Bend-Elkhart region.

"The partnership between the University of Notre Dame and Ancora will breathe new life into an area of downtown South Bend in need of reinvestment — bringing research, talent and community vision together into an exciting new district," said Caleb Bauer, executive director of community investment for the city of South Bend. "Notre Dame's ambitious commitment to downtown continues to deepen the relationship between the University and our community."

Pending additional design and planning work, and in close collaboration with the city of South Bend and other key stakeholders, work on the project is expected to commence sometime later this year.

Classifieds Marketplace

NILES, BUCHANAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

25 N. 2nd St.
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 591-6105

LeaderPub.com
classifieds@leaderpub.com
public.notices@leaderpub.com

Employment

Job Opportunities

Now Hiring: Multiple Positions
Ligonier, IN
Call 574-293-5900
forgestaff.com/apply

LOAD a SPUD

Now Hiring at entry level positions at Load a Spud Cafe starting at $13/hr - $15/hr now accepting applications in person or contact **loadaspudcafe.niles@gmail.com**

JOB OPENING-DPS Part-time Seasonal Maintenance Wrler
The City of Dowagiac is accepting applications for a part-time position as a Seasonal Maintenance Worker
www.cityofdowagiac.com

Merchandise

Antiques & Collectibles

LOOK!
CJ'S THIS N' THAT FLEA MARKET

"A little bit of everything and a whole lot of deals!"

Antiques, collectibles, new and used merchandise.

Vendor spots available!

**6681 US HWY 31,
BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103
OPEN SAT & SUN 10AM-4PM**

**574-807-5276
269-217-5241**

GUNS & AMMO
Fast Cash Paid!

WANTED:

- Private and Estate Firearm Collections
- Collectible and Rare Firearms
- Ammunition and Optics
- Any Make, Model, Caliber or Style!

We will come to you for large collections!
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

100 S. Kendall St.
Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269)963-5588

101 Robinson St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269)782-5134

US UNITED STATES LUMBER COMPANY

gunbroker@uslumbercompany.com

YOHO'S TREASURE MARKET
INDOOR
FLEA MARKET
AND MORE!
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES FURNITURE

Booths' Available!
Now Renting from $75+!
**Yoho's Treasure Market!
1420 S 11th st.
Niles, MI 49120**
**Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423**

Lawn & Garden

FOR SALE BY OWNER
JOHN DEERE HEAVY DUTY MOWER MODEL 403 WITH EXTRA SET OF BLADES, ASKING $500.00 CASH, NO CHECKS.

ROTEMEC 5 FT MOWER 3PT HITCH, RIGHT HAND DISCHARGE, ASKING $500.00 CASH, NO CHECKS CALL 574-250-9094 AFTER 4:PM M-F.

**Will Do Custom
Roto-Tilling
Lots of Experience
The Troy Built Way
$40 minimum
269-240-4323**

Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

Call (269)462-0183

Rentals

Wanted To Rent

Needed Year Round Storage In Niles Area For Car, Motorcycle And Other Garage Items Call: 574-361-2535

Looking for Large Storage Space in Niles or Buchanan Area. All items are clean, no junk. Call (269)262-0162

Transportation

Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400

2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

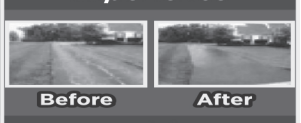
Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

Services

Asphalt & Paving

TODD BAILEY
ASPHALT SEALING
Licensed & Insured 54 Years Experience



Before After

Have a driveway that lasts! Protect your investment!
**269-277-8827
Call or Text 24/7**
Mother's day Special!
$99 OFF
Asphalt work, pothole repair & patching with coupon. Call for Details!

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Construction

Michiana Masonry & Construction
**All your Masonry needs!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566**

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION
WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE
65280 M-66
STURGIS, MI 49091
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

Family and Veteran Owned Business in Michiana!

US UNITED STATES LUMBER COMPANY
Smith & Co. Interiors by US Lumber Company

Lumber | Hardware | Tools
Roofing | Pole Barns | Trusses
Siding | Windows | Doors
Decking | Kitchens | Baths

**No job too Big or Small!
Call today for an appointment...or come on in!**

Interior & Exterior Designers & Project Management
Professional Construction Estimating

uslumbercompany.com
100 S. Kendall St. Battle Creek, MI 49037 (269) 963-5588
101 Robinson St. Dowagiac, MI 49047 (269) 782-5134

Miscellaneous Services

AUCTION
Fun online auctions at Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Sawmill, farm equipment, hubcaps, CB accessories, hand/power tools, hunting, fishing equipment, furniture, antiques, collectibles and much more. View auctions and bid online. Questions? Call Joe, 1-800-835-0495.

BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuildingsmi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010 or 989-324-0035.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com. 989-923-1278

MISCELLANEOUS
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

POND/LAKE
Eco-Friendly Pond & Lake weed removal tools. Veteran made in Michigan. Visit our website www.WeedGatorProducts.com or call 989-529-3992. 5% discount code GATOR5.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-776-0121.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-2853.

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

Painting & Decorating

**RETIRED PAINTER
Will do small-medium jobs
Interior/exterior
30 years experience
269-683-8219
269-240-7912**

Pressure Washing

J&H POWER WASHING HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.

WHY CALL THE REST
WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
269-591-6105

Professional Services

"HONEY DO"
NEED A HAND?
WE'VE GOT 2!
WE STRIVE FOR PERFECTION!
SMALL JOBS ARE SPECIALTY.
FOR FREE ESTIMATES,
CALL 269-815-0711
COVERING SW, MI.

Roofing and Guttering

MIDWEST ROOFING
Family Owned Since 1984
**Lifetime Warranty Shingles
Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers**
Call (269) 684-7199

Tree Service

BIG MIKES TREE SERVICE & EXCAVATING LLC

- Residential & Commercial
- Tree Trimming/Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Snow Removal
- Firewood
- Excavating
- Lot & Land Clearing
- Demolition

Call/Text for a FREE ESTIMATE!
269-363-8384

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
**PLEASE CALL
574-848-5845.**

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF NILES UTILITY DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

On February 25, 2025, an Application for Approval of Renewable Energy Plan was filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008, as amended by Public Act 235 of 2023.

Any interested persons or prospective customers may review the Application at the Michigan offices of Niles Utility Department, 322 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120 or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-16625. Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917.

Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2025. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Niles Daily Star:
June 14, 2025
COMMENTS/ENERGY PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Apex Storage Auction @ 2601 N. 5th St. Niles MI 49120 on June 21, 2025 starting at 10:00 AM.

Rodney Glenn- Punching bag, children's toys, bed frame, pool table, mattress, TV stand

Andrew Wheeler- 3 adult bikes,desk,hedge trimmer, cooler,extension cords, ironing board, suitcase, shoe rack

David Laskowski- 10 boxes of plastic toys, car jack,small table

Niles Daily Star:
June 7 and 14, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

**EDWARDSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., the Board of Education of Edwardsburg Public Schools, Cass County Michigan, will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.
The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection by appointment only by calling 269.663.3055 at the District Administrative Center, 27145 US 12, Edwardsburg, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Tammy Niemier, Secretary
Board of Education
Edwardsburg Public Schools

Niles Daily Star:
June 14, 2025
HEARING/BUDGET

Need to find the right employee?
WE CAN HELP.
Reach the county for less using Leader Publications classifieds. Need a quick quote? Submit your ad online at LeaderPub.com.
Call 269-591-6105.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
28	Emalee Anderson
32	Eric Johnson
60	Anthony Sharp
109	Raymond Greathouse
116	Melissa Kaeding
127/633	Chris Norris
145/467/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
152	Lorene Maynard
177	Larry Wegrecki
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
195	Daniel Beushauser
196	Colton Wedgeworth
205	Nancy Bombrys
224	Ricole Haas
228/367	Shawnette Booker
258	Briana Coon
273	Tony Pompey
275	Zachary Jahrling
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
321	James Browning
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352/355	Andre Ahlers
365	Stephanie Palmisano
368	Erin Weed
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
399	Les Hart
427	McCade Reese
430	Reshawn Preston
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
480	Lori Kennedy
530	Justin Landis
541	Nicole Hurt
577	Stephanie Pellow
605	Michael Lewark
608	Robert Conner
613	Nicole Jones
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

3	Bruce Walls

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

8	Kilshandra Rouch
57	James Colburn
97	Blake King
126A	John Daniel
284A	Bethany Snyder
311A	Michael Tapia
140	Ronnie West
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
174	Florence VanLew
227	Jennifer Nichols
228	Michael Hoadley
230	Felisha Liberty
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
262	Brittany Backus
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
367	Jackie Libertowski
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
389	Llandon Ross
422	Ty Dougherty
426	James Schilling Jr.
452	Aaron Smith
454	Mary Ann Sipe
481	Natosha Libertowski
497	Courtney Rybolt

Niles Daily Star:
June 14 an 21, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

DEALS ON WHEELS

0 DOWN DELIVERS!

ON THE SPOT FINANCING

Selling Fast!
Buy Now
Before Prices go Higher

2014 CHEVY SONIC LT
Fully service and ready to go
Only $5,900

2010 NISSAN ROGUE AWD
Just in!! Fully serviced and ready to go with leather and a sunroof
Only $5,900

2019 NISSAN VERSA
Just in!!
35mpg, fully serviced and ready to go
Only $9,900

2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Power moonroof, leather in mint condition
Only $9,900

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS
Just in!! Gets over 50 miles per gallon!!
Only $10,900

2016 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD
All the toys!!
Only $12,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!!
Only 53,000 miles
Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum
Only $13,900

1999 FORD F-250 CLUB CAB XLT
This is a one owner in mint condition with low miles and very sought after 7.3 diesel
Only $19,900

2023 KEYSTONE HIDEOUT 26BH
Like New, solar panels… over $48,000 new
Only $19,900

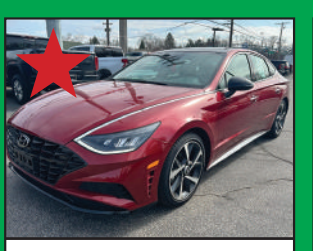
2014 CHEVY SILVERADO HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Just in!! It's in the air so folks will stare!!
Only $19,900

2018 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER AWD
Diesel. 45 miles per gallon
Only $21,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2022 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB LT
Just in!! Off lease with full power option and 45,000 miles
Only $23,900

2018 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles
Only $24,900



2023 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL
Like new with only 4,000 miles!
Only $24,900

2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item
Only $24,900

2019 DODGE DURANGO SXT 4 X 4
Only 31,000 miles and like new
Only $24,900

2020 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Showroom new, low miles
Only $26,900

2022 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Just in!! Off lease, one owner with super low miles
Only $26,900

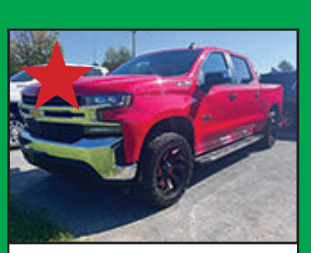
2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!
Only $29,900

2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!
Only $29,900

2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
Just in!!
8,000 miles
with every option!!
Only $33,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE,
one owner with EVERY option
Only 13,000 miles
Only $43,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC